ROBERT KIRKMAN DAN MORA JORGE CORONA MIKE SPICER

TRANSFORMERS

image

#25

ENERGON UNIVERSE

TRANSFORMERS

ISSUE TWENTY-FIVE

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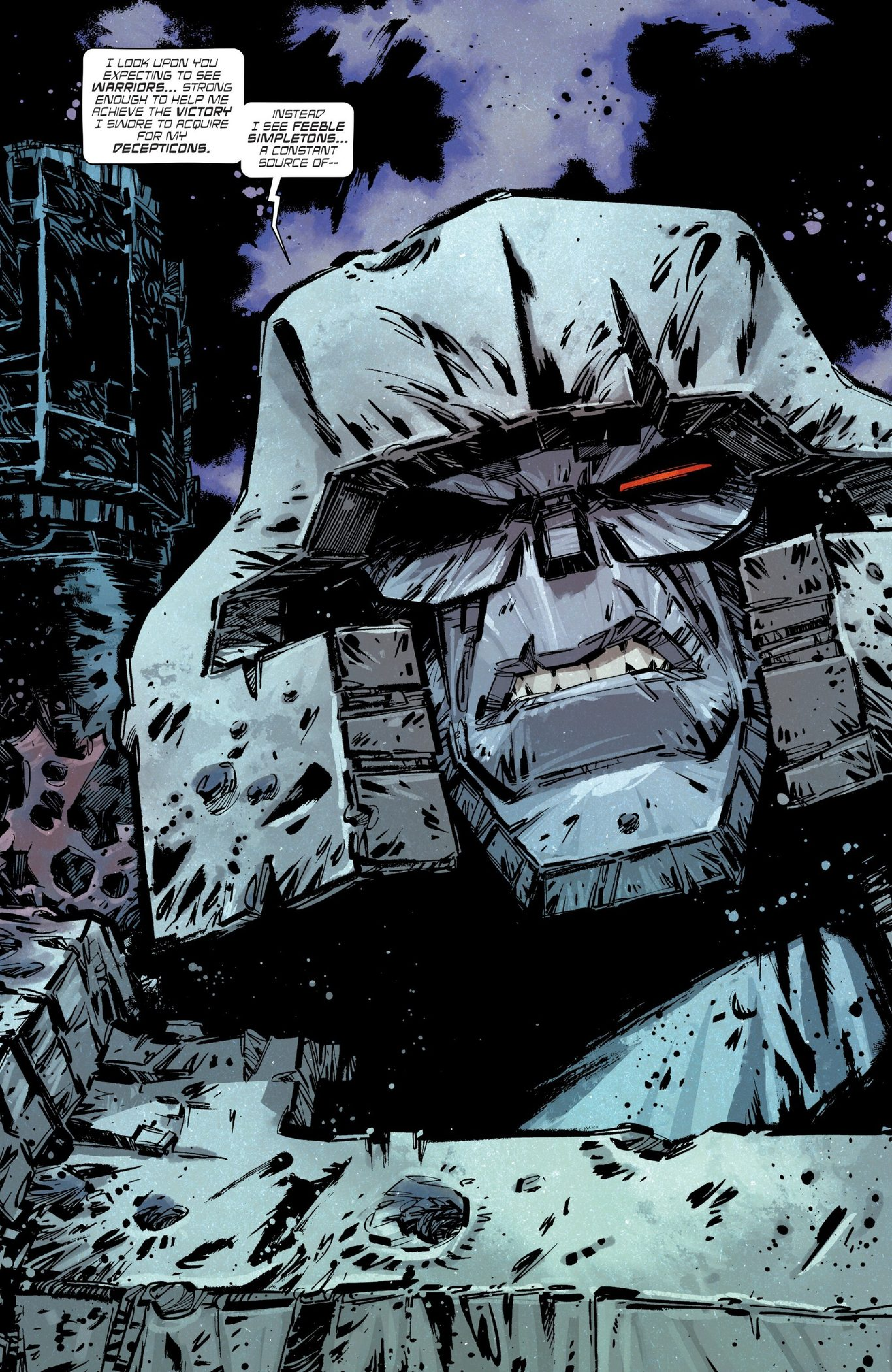
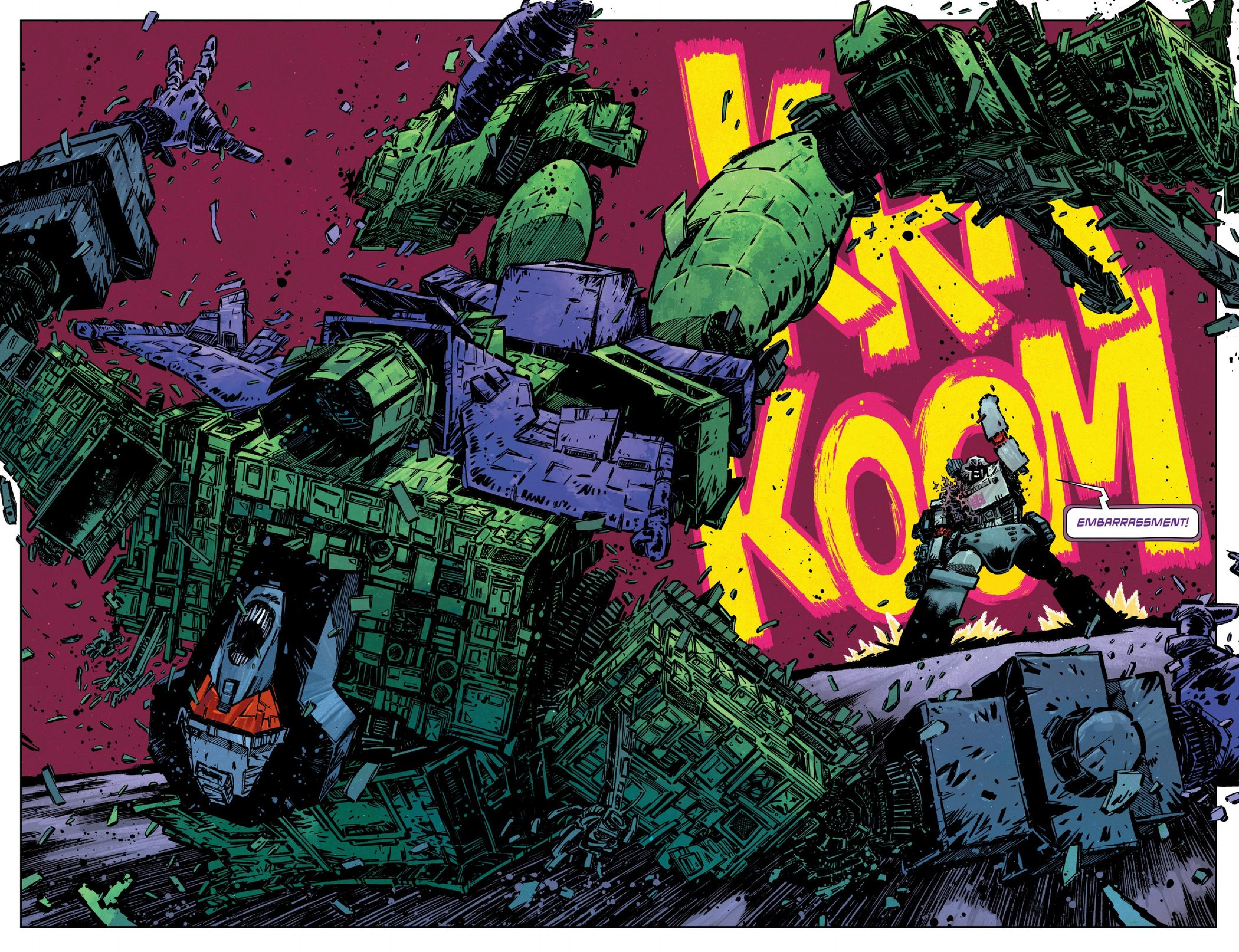
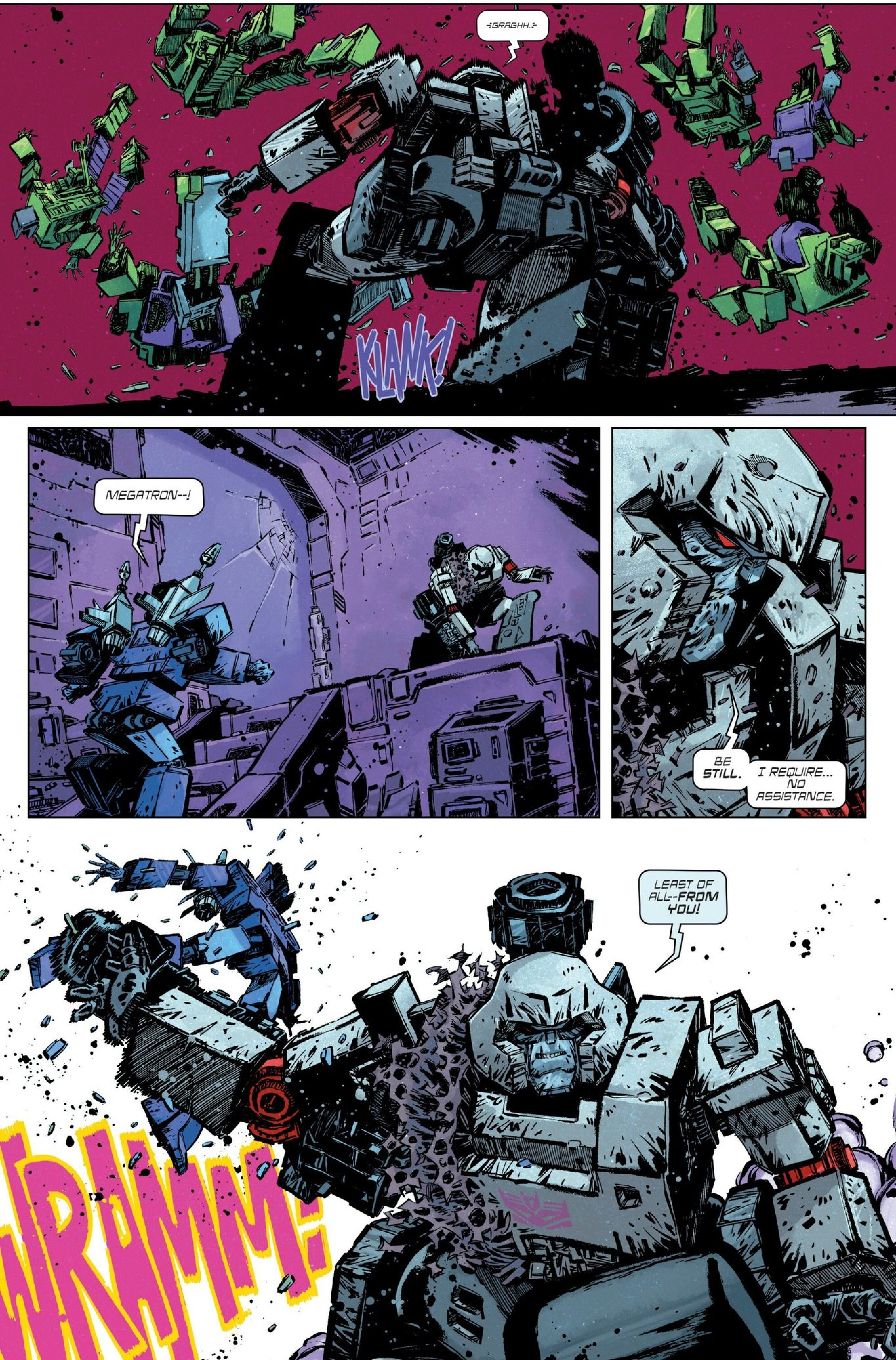
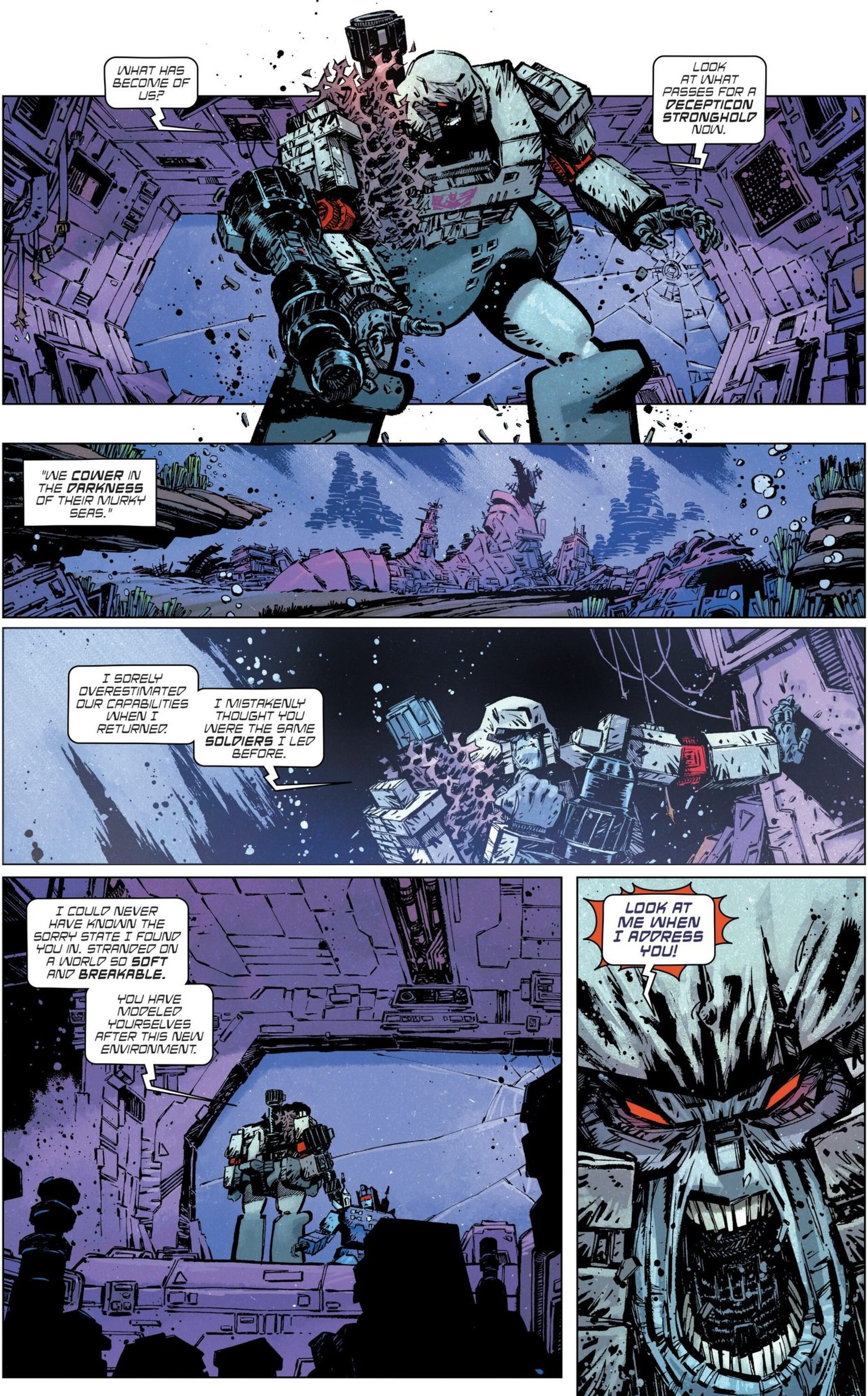
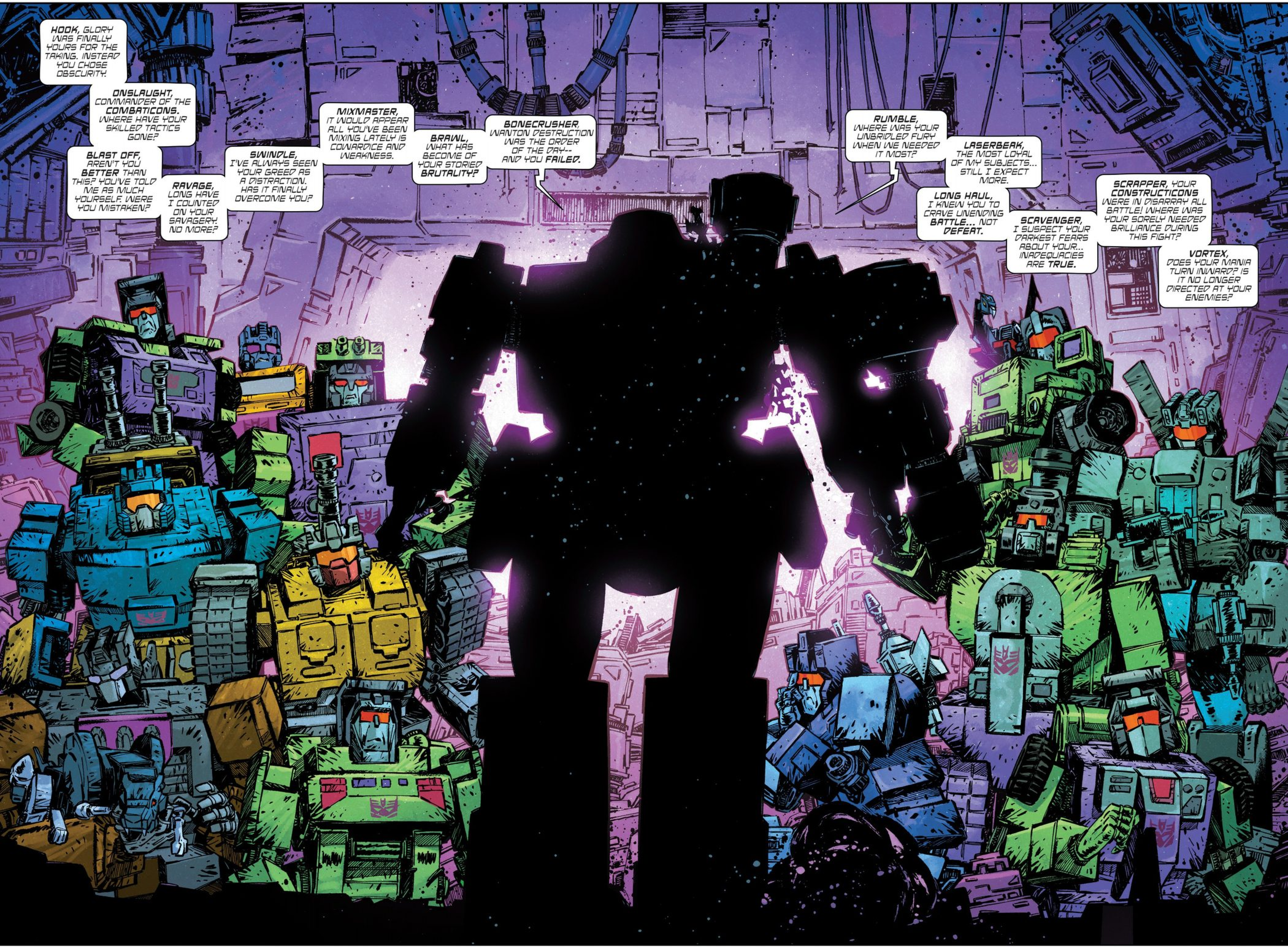
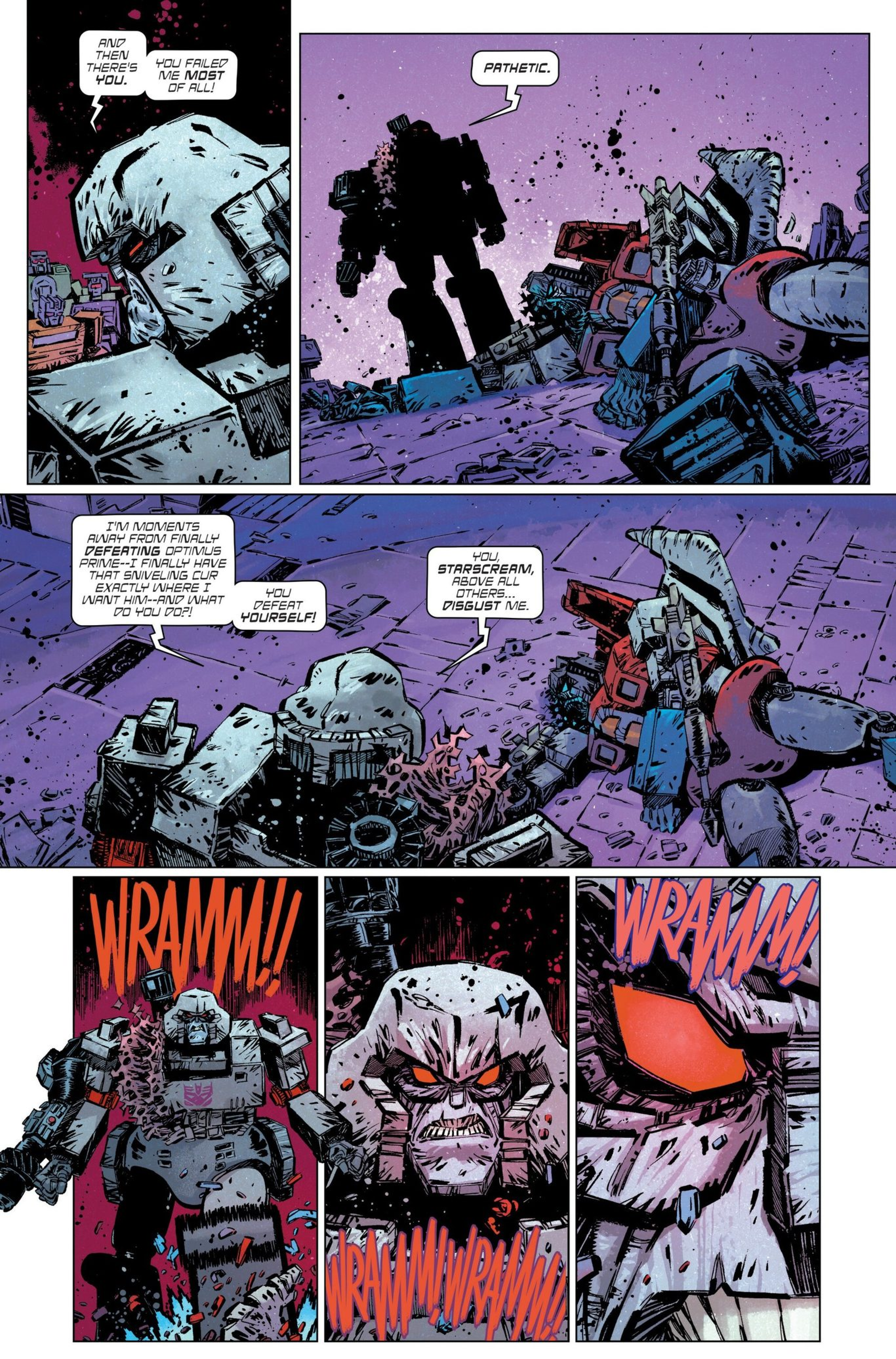

I LOOK UPON YOU EXPECTING TO SEE **WARRIORS...** STRONG ENOUGH TO HELP ME ACHIEVE THE **VICTORY** I SWORE TO ACQUIRE FOR MY **DECEPTICONS.**
INSTEAD I SEE **FEEBLE SIMPLETONS...** A CONSTANT SOURCE OF--

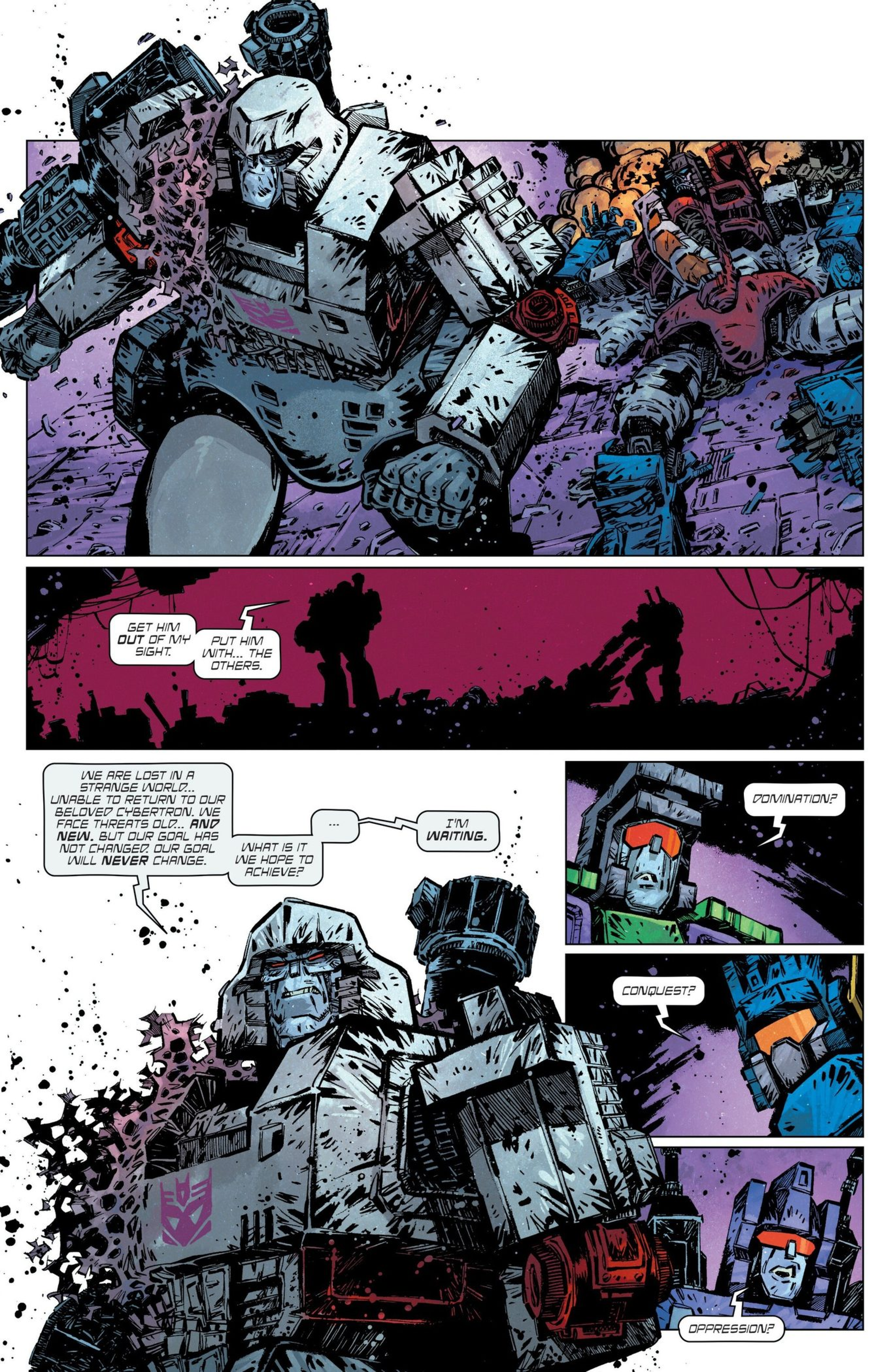

KOOM
EMBARRASSMENT!

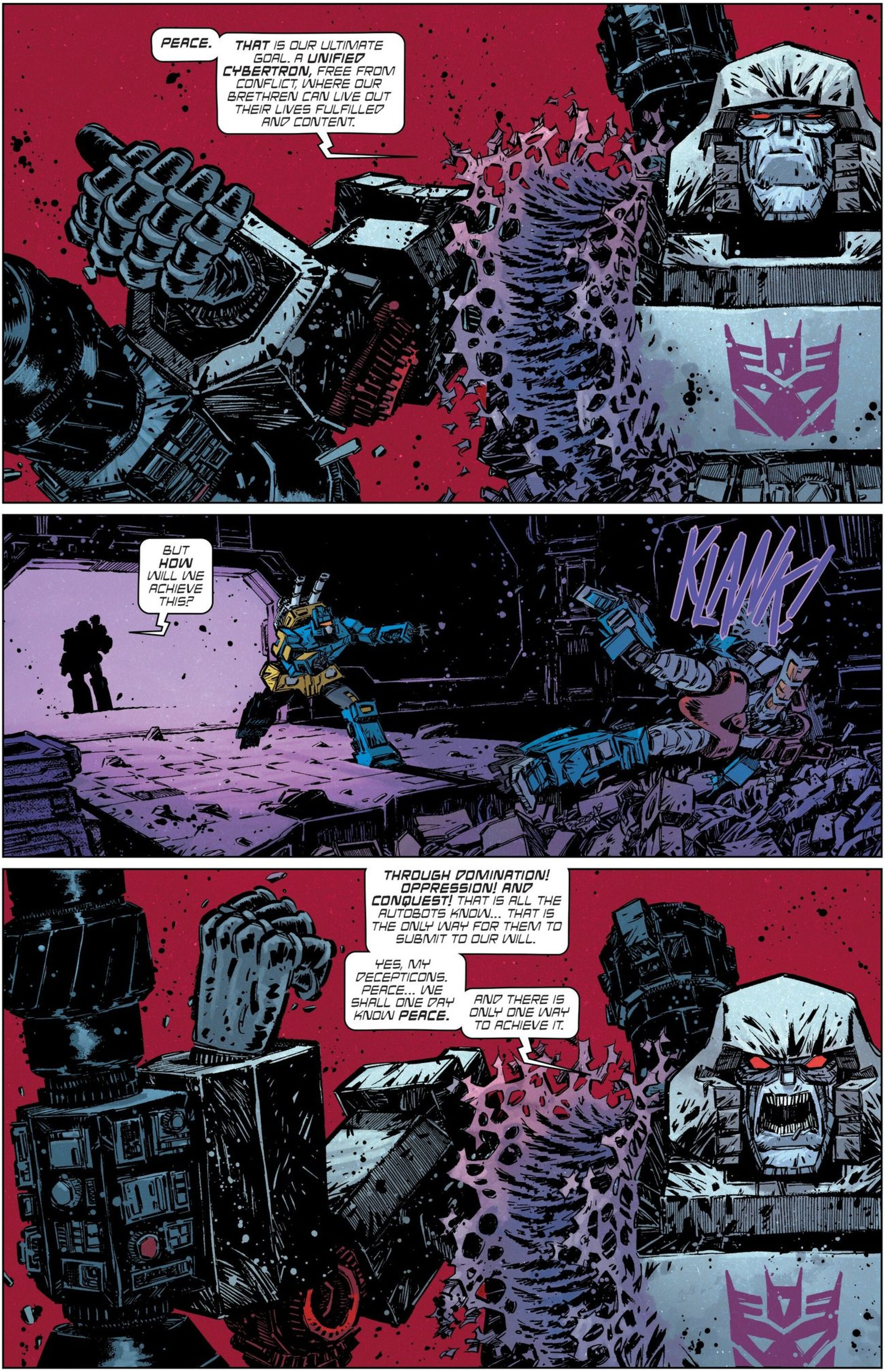

GRAGHH.
KLANK!
MEGATRON--!
BE STILL.
I REQUIRE... NO ASSISTANCE.
LEAST OF ALL--FROM YOU!
RAMM!

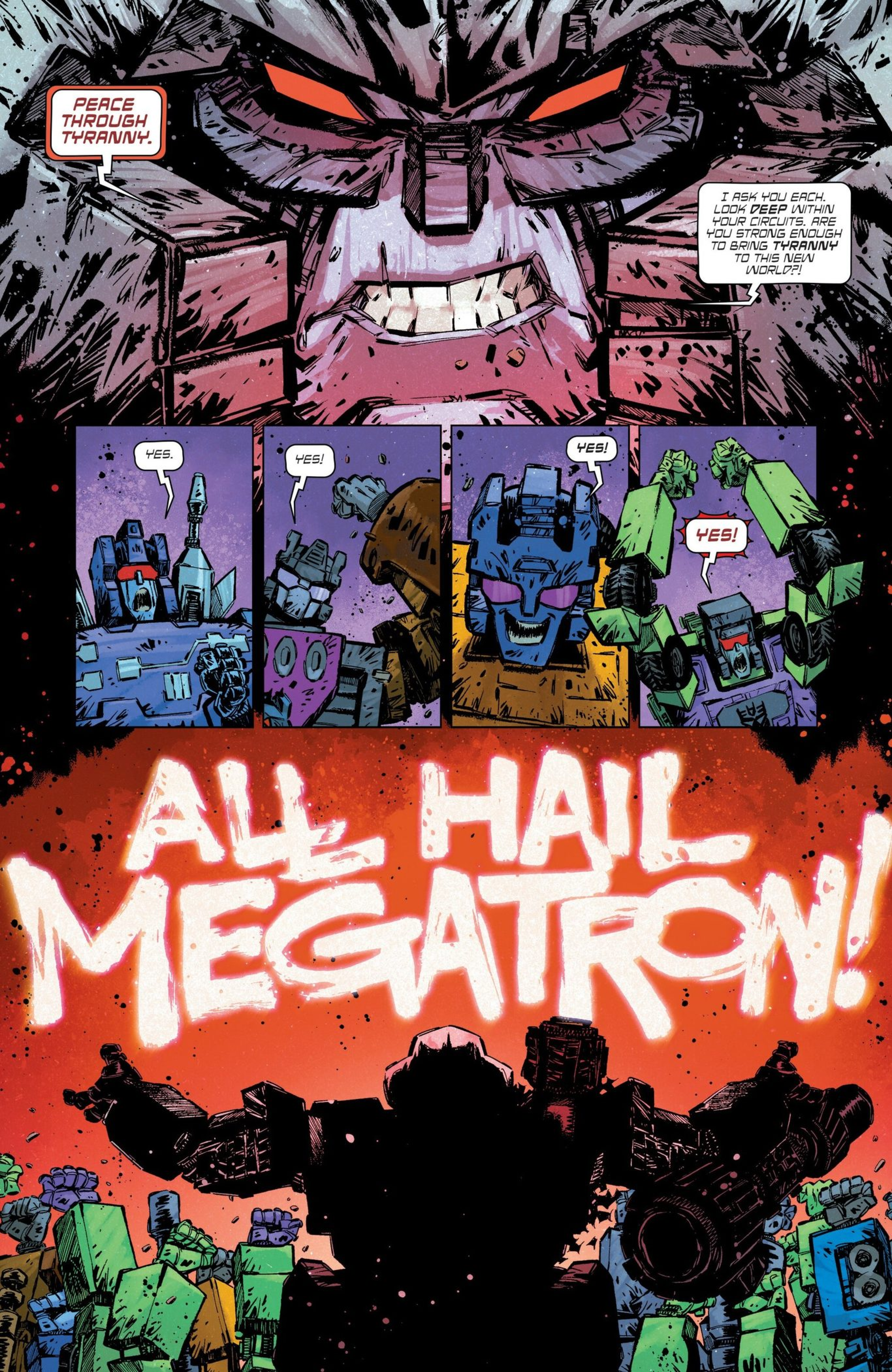

WHAT HAS BECOME OF US?
LOOK AT WHAT PASSES FOR A **DECEPTICON STRONGHOLD** NOW.
"WE **COWER** IN THE **DARKNESS** OF THEIR MURKY SEAS."
I SORELY OVERESTIMATED OUR CAPABILITIES WHEN I RETURNED.
I MISTAKENLY THOUGHT YOU WERE THE SAME **SOLDIERS** I LED BEFORE.
I COULD NEVER HAVE KNOWN THE SORRY STATE I FOUND YOU IN. STRANDED ON A WORLD SO **SOFT** AND **BREAKABLE.**
YOU HAVE MODELED YOURSELVES AFTER THIS NEW ENVIRONMENT.
LOOK AT ME WHEN I ADDRESS YOU!

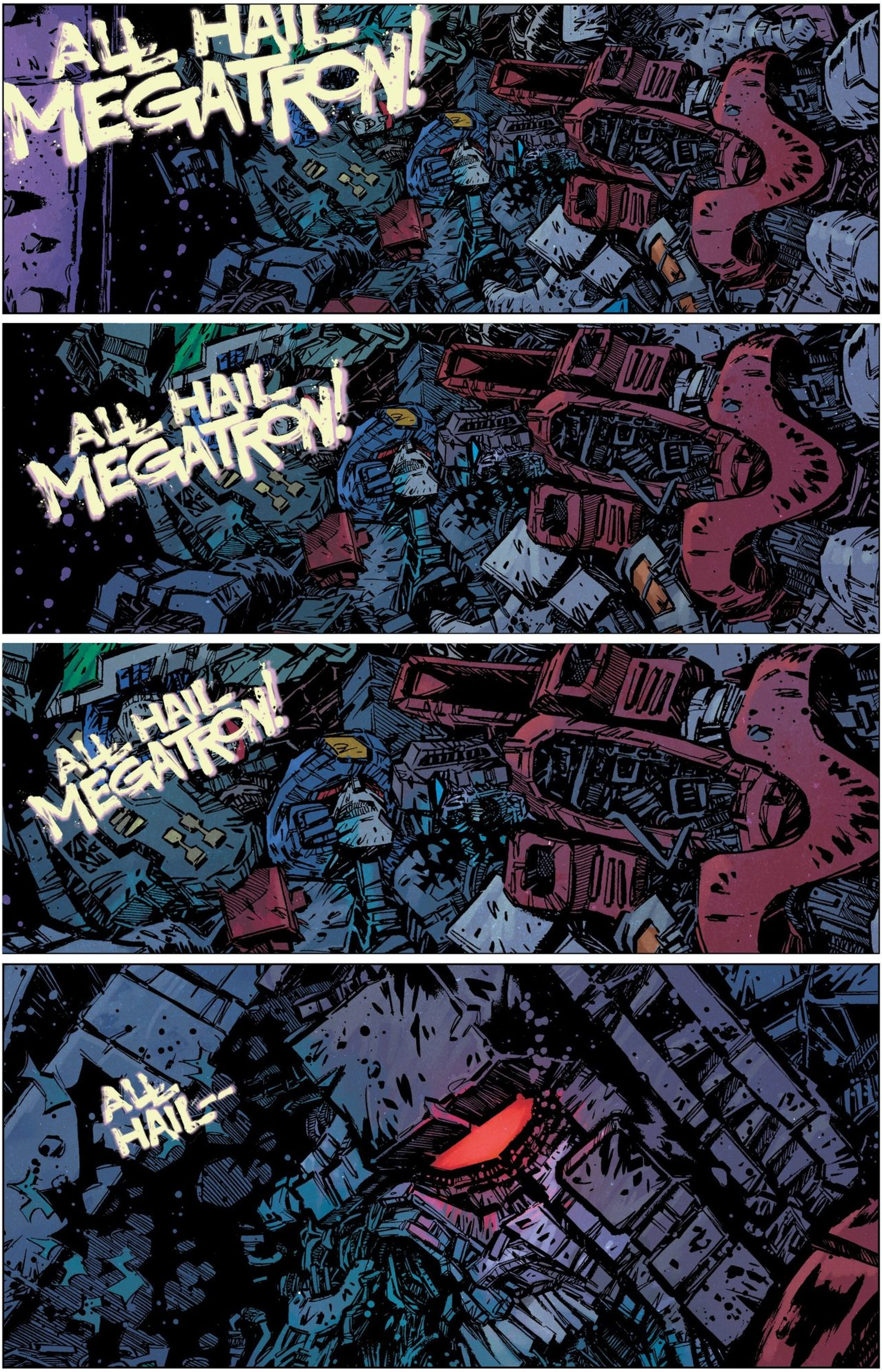

HOOK, GLORY WAS FINALLY YOURS FOR THE TAKING. INSTEAD YOU CHOSE OBSCURITY.
ONSLAUGHT, COMMANDER OF THE **COMBATICONS.** WHERE HAVE YOUR SKILLED TACTICS GONE?
BLAST OFF, AREN'T YOU **BETTER** THAN THIS? YOU'VE TOLD ME AS MUCH YOURSELF. WERE YOU MISTAKEN?
RAVAGE, LONG HAVE I COUNTED ON YOUR SAVAGERY. NO MORE?
SWINDLE, I'VE ALWAYS SEEN YOUR GREED AS A DISTRACTION. HAS IT FINALLY OVERCOME YOU?
MIXMASTER, IT WOULD APPEAR ALL YOU'VE BEEN MIXING LATELY IS COWARDICE AND WEAKNESS.
BRAWL, WHAT HAS BECOME OF YOUR STORIED **BRUTALITY?**
BONECRUSHER, WANTON DESTRUCTION WAS THE ORDER OF THE DAY-- AND YOU **FAILED.**
RUMBLE, WHERE WAS YOUR UNBRIDLED FURY WHEN WE NEEDED IT MOST?
LASERBEAK, THE MOST LOYAL OF MY SUBJECTS... STILL I EXPECT MORE.
LONG HAUL, I KNEW YOU TO CRAVE UNENDING **BATTLE**... NOT **DEFEAT.**
SCAVENGER, I SUSPECT YOUR DARKEST FEARS ABOUT YOUR... INADEQUACIES ARE **TRUE.**
SCRAPPER, YOUR **CONSTRUCTICONS** WERE IN DISARRAY ALL BATTLE! WHERE WAS YOUR SORELY NEEDED BRILLIANCE DURING THIS FIGHT?
VORTEX, DOES YOUR MANIA TURN INWARD? IS IT NO LONGER DIRECTED AT YOUR ENEMIES?

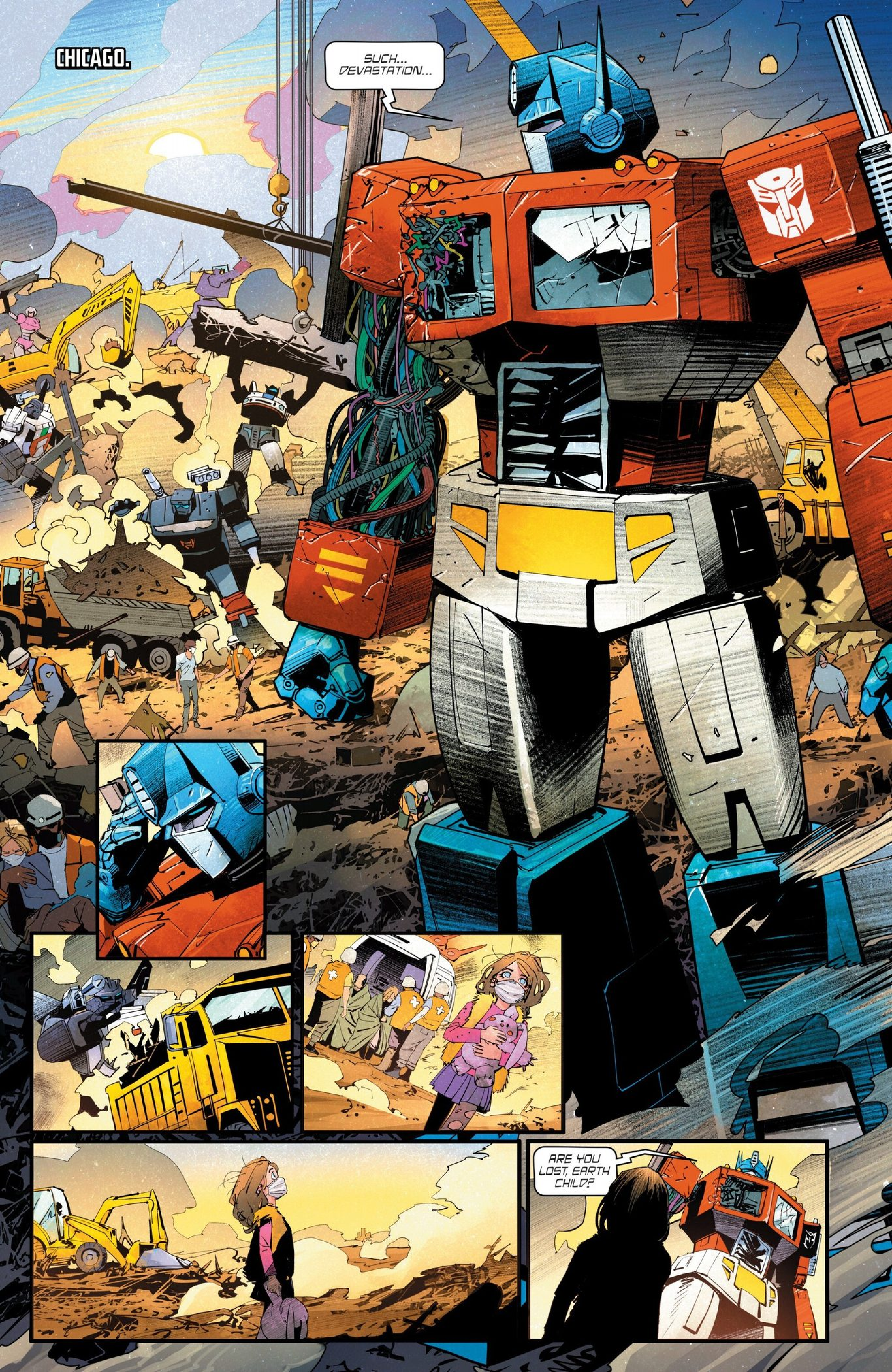

AND THEN THERE'S **YOU.**
YOU FAILED ME **MOST** OF ALL!
PATHETIC.
I'M MOMENTS AWAY FROM FINALLY **DEFEATING** OPTIMUS PRIME--I FINALLY HAVE THAT SNIVELING CUR EXACTLY WHERE I WANT HIM--AND WHAT DO YOU DO?!
YOU DEFEAT **YOURSELF!**
YOU, **STARSCREAM,** ABOVE ALL OTHERS... **DISGUST** ME.
WRAMM!!
WRAMM! WRAMM!!
WRAMM!

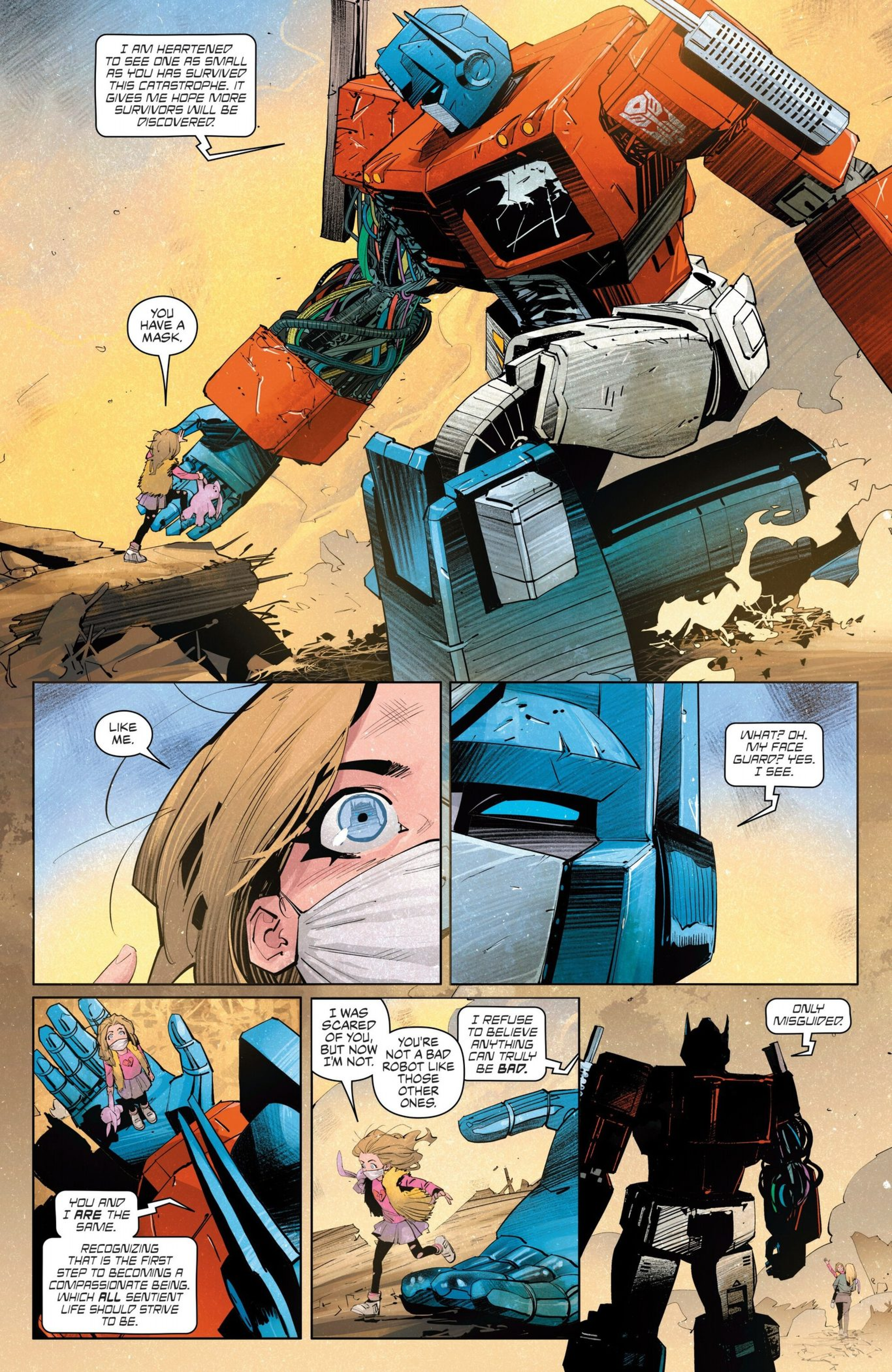

GET HIM **OUT** OF MY SIGHT.
PUT HIM WITH... THE OTHERS.
WE ARE LOST IN A STRANGE WORLD.. UNABLE TO RETURN TO OUR BELOVED CYBERTRON. WE FACE THREATS OLD... **AND NEW.** BUT OUR GOAL HAS NOT CHANGED. OUR GOAL WILL **NEVER** CHANGE.
WHAT IS IT WE HOPE TO ACHIEVE?
...
I'M **WAITING.**
DOMINATION?
CONQUEST?
OPPRESSION?

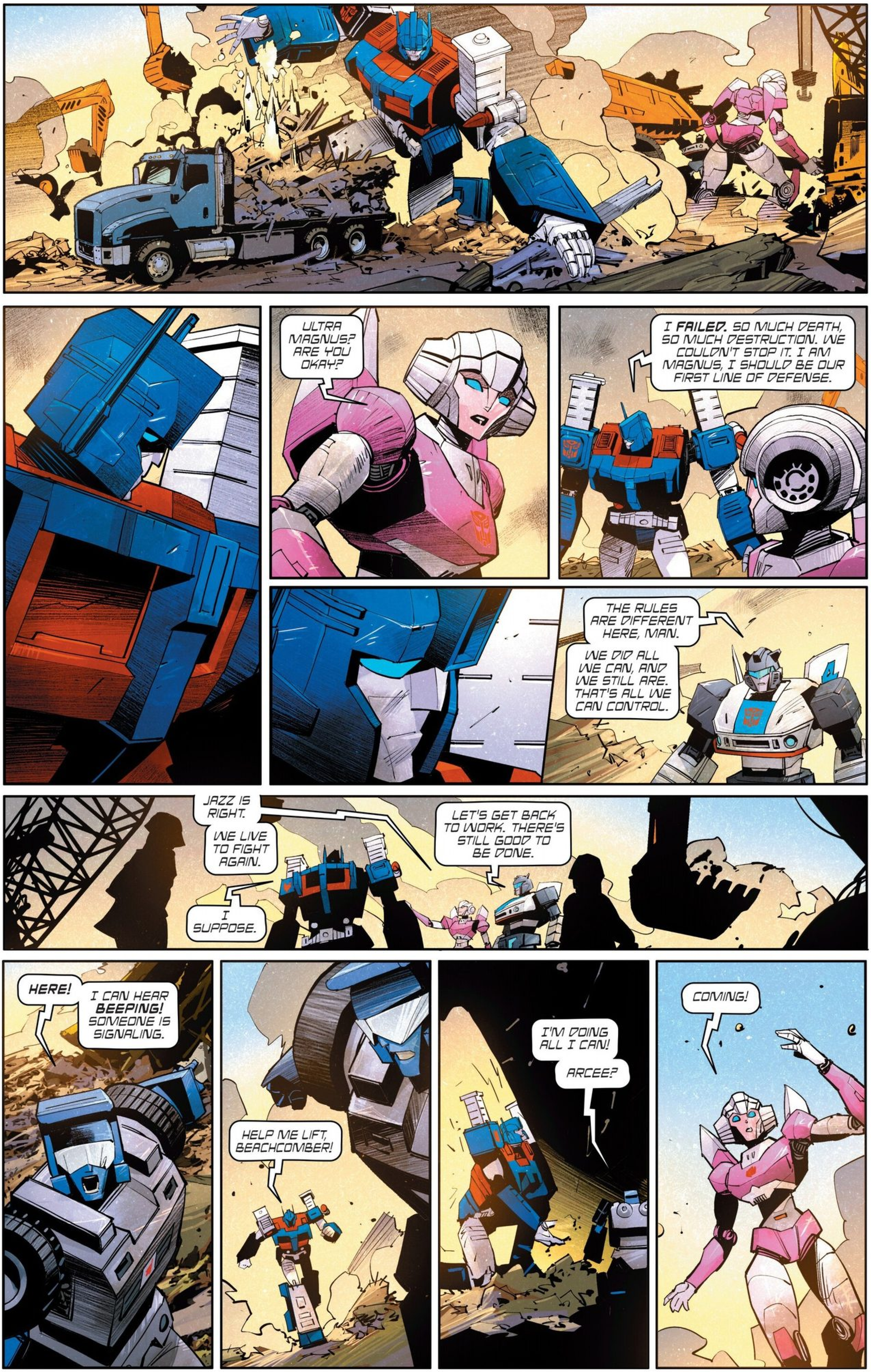

PEACE.
THAT IS OUR ULTIMATE GOAL. A UNIFIED CYBERTRON, FREE FROM CONFLICT, WHERE OUR BRETHREN CAN LIVE OUT THEIR LIVES FULFILLED AND CONTENT.
BUT HOW WILL WE ACHIEVE THIS?
KLANK!
THROUGH DOMINATION! OPPRESSION! AND CONQUEST! THAT IS ALL THE AUTOBOTS KNOW... THAT IS THE ONLY WAY FOR THEM TO SUBMIT TO OUR WILL.
YES, MY DECEPTICONS. PEACE... WE SHALL ONE DAY KNOW PEACE.
AND THERE IS ONLY ONE WAY TO ACHIEVE IT.

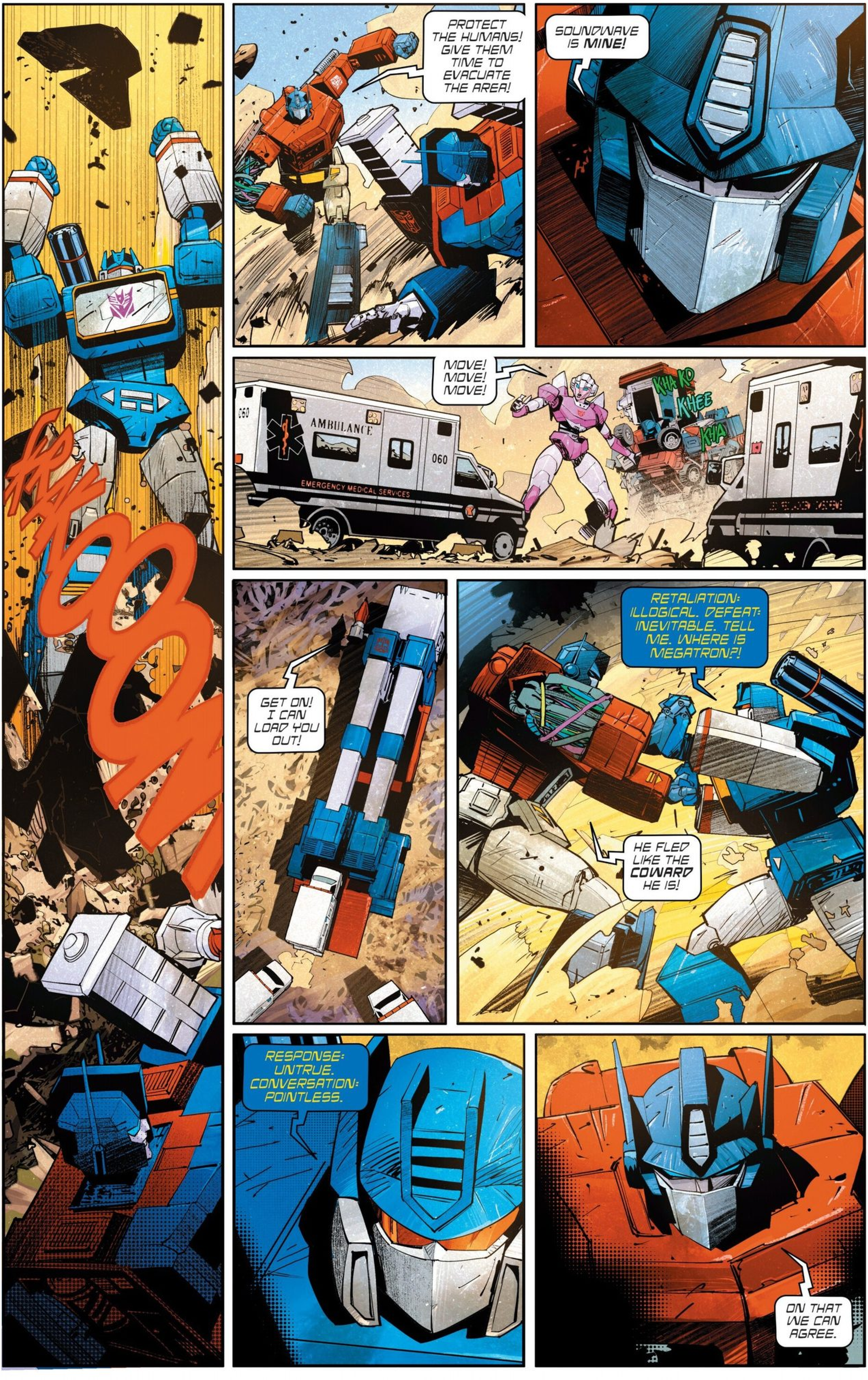

PEACE THROUGH TYRANNY.
I ASK YOU EACH. LOOK **DEEP** WITHIN YOUR CIRCUITS. ARE YOU STRONG ENOUGH TO BRING **TYRANNY** TO THIS NEW WORLD?!
YES.
YES!
YES!
YES!
ALL HAIL MEGATRON!

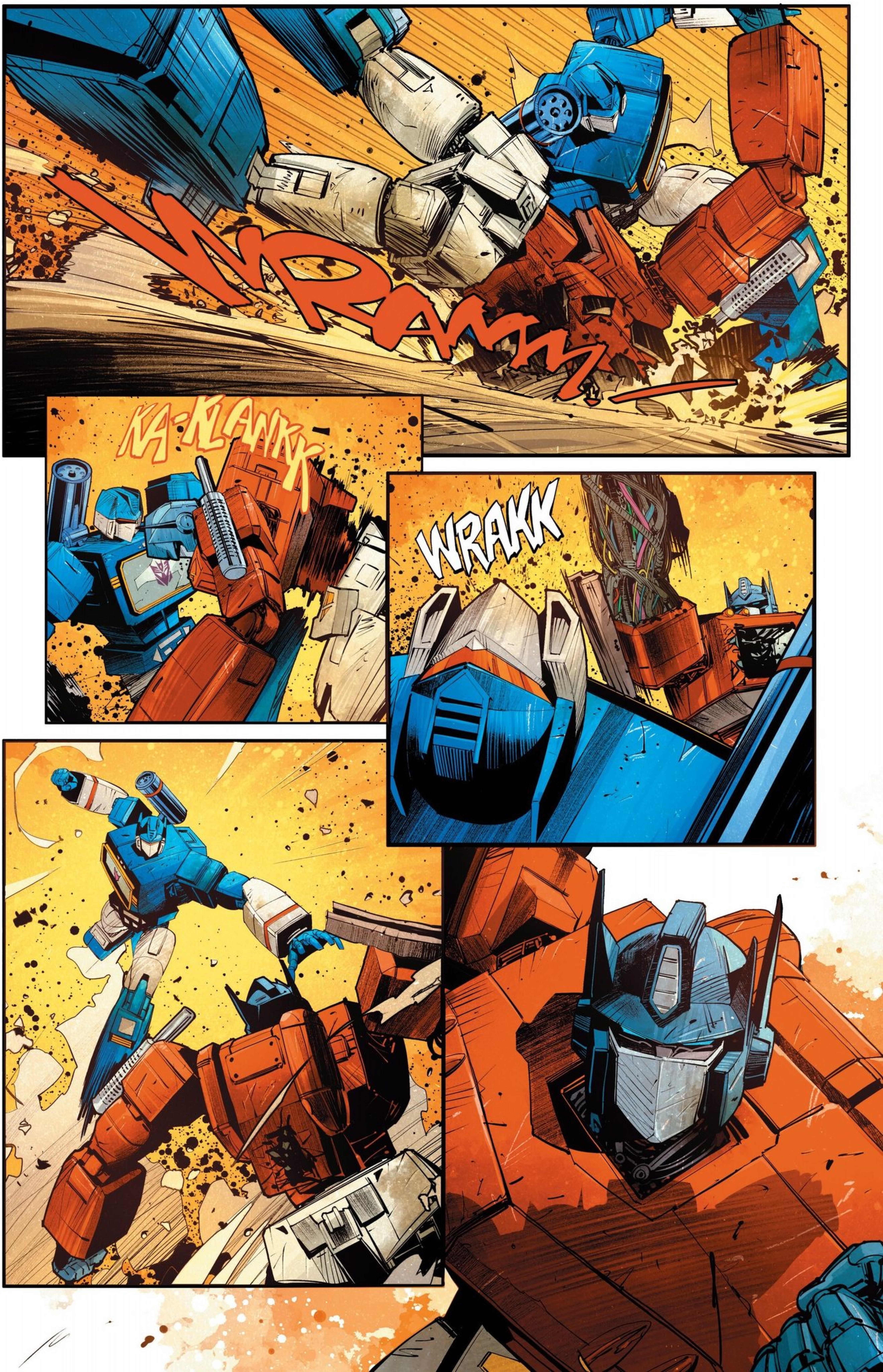

ALL HAIL MEGATRON!
ALL HAIL MEGATRON!
ALL HAIL MEGATRON!
ALL HAIL--

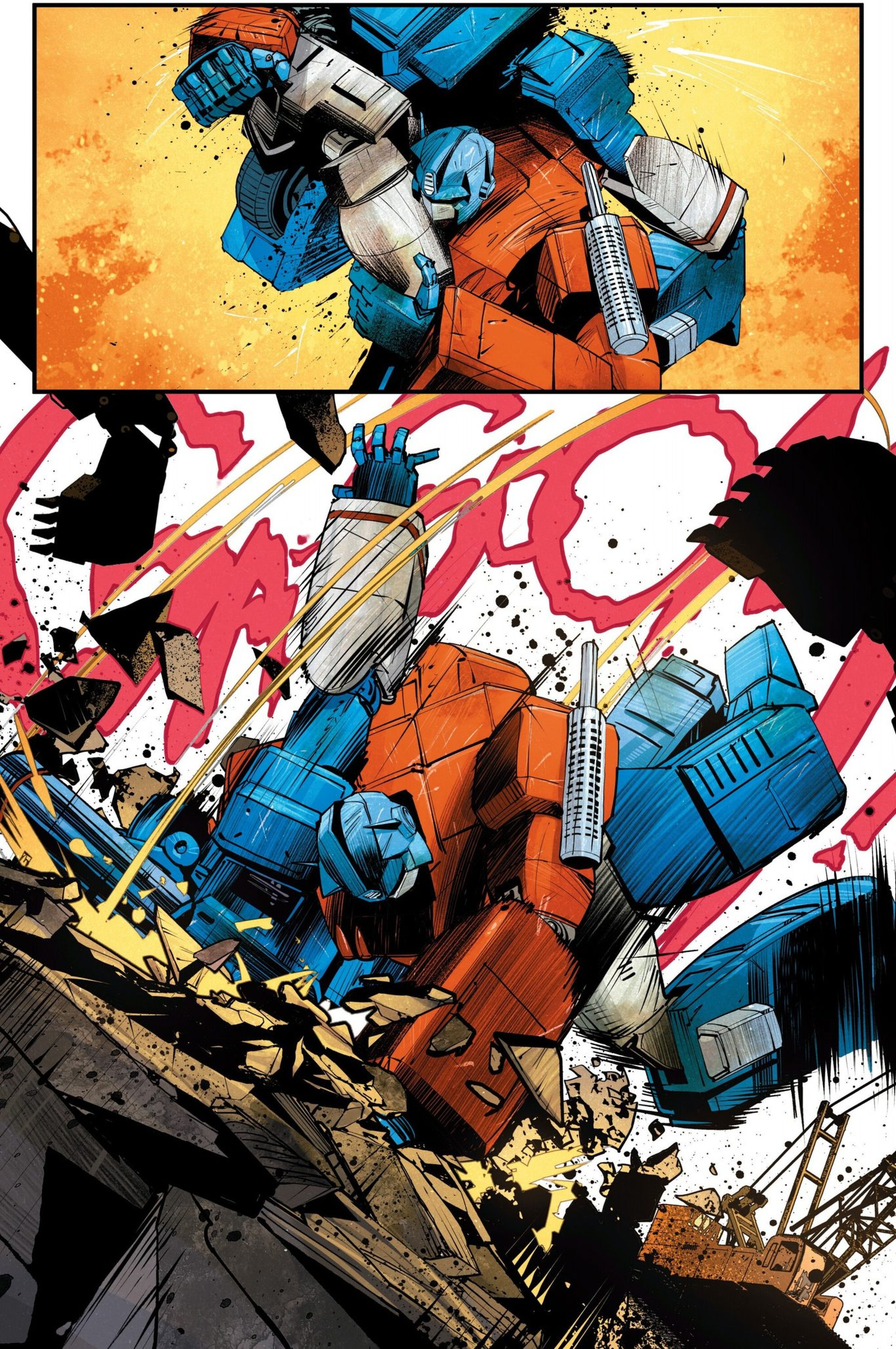

CHICAGO.
SUCH... DEVASTATION...
ARE YOU LOST, EARTH CHILD?

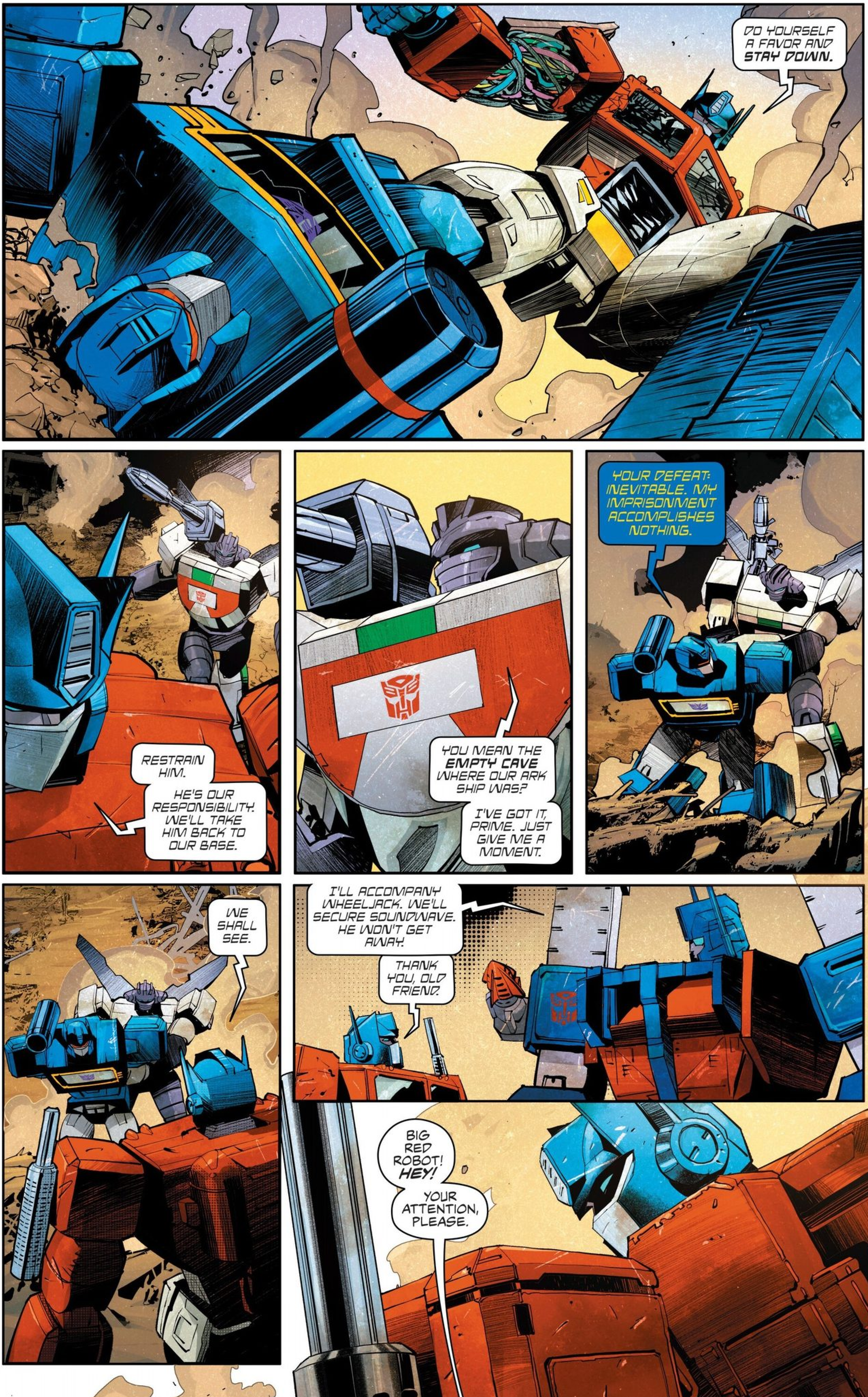

I AM HEARTENED TO SEE ONE AS SMALL AS YOU HAS SURVIVED THIS CATASTROPHE. IT GIVES ME HOPE MORE SURVIVORS WILL BE DISCOVERED.
YOU HAVE A MASK.
LIKE ME.
WHAT? OH. MY FACE GUARD? YES. I SEE.
YOU AND I **ARE** THE SAME.
RECOGNIZING THAT IS THE FIRST STEP TO BECOMING A COMPASSIONATE BEING. WHICH **ALL** SENTIENT LIFE SHOULD STRIVE TO BE.
I WAS SCARED OF YOU, BUT NOW I'M NOT.
YOU'RE NOT A BAD ROBOT LIKE THOSE OTHER ONES.
I REFUSE TO BELIEVE ANYTHING CAN TRULY BE **BAD**.
ONLY MISGUIDED.

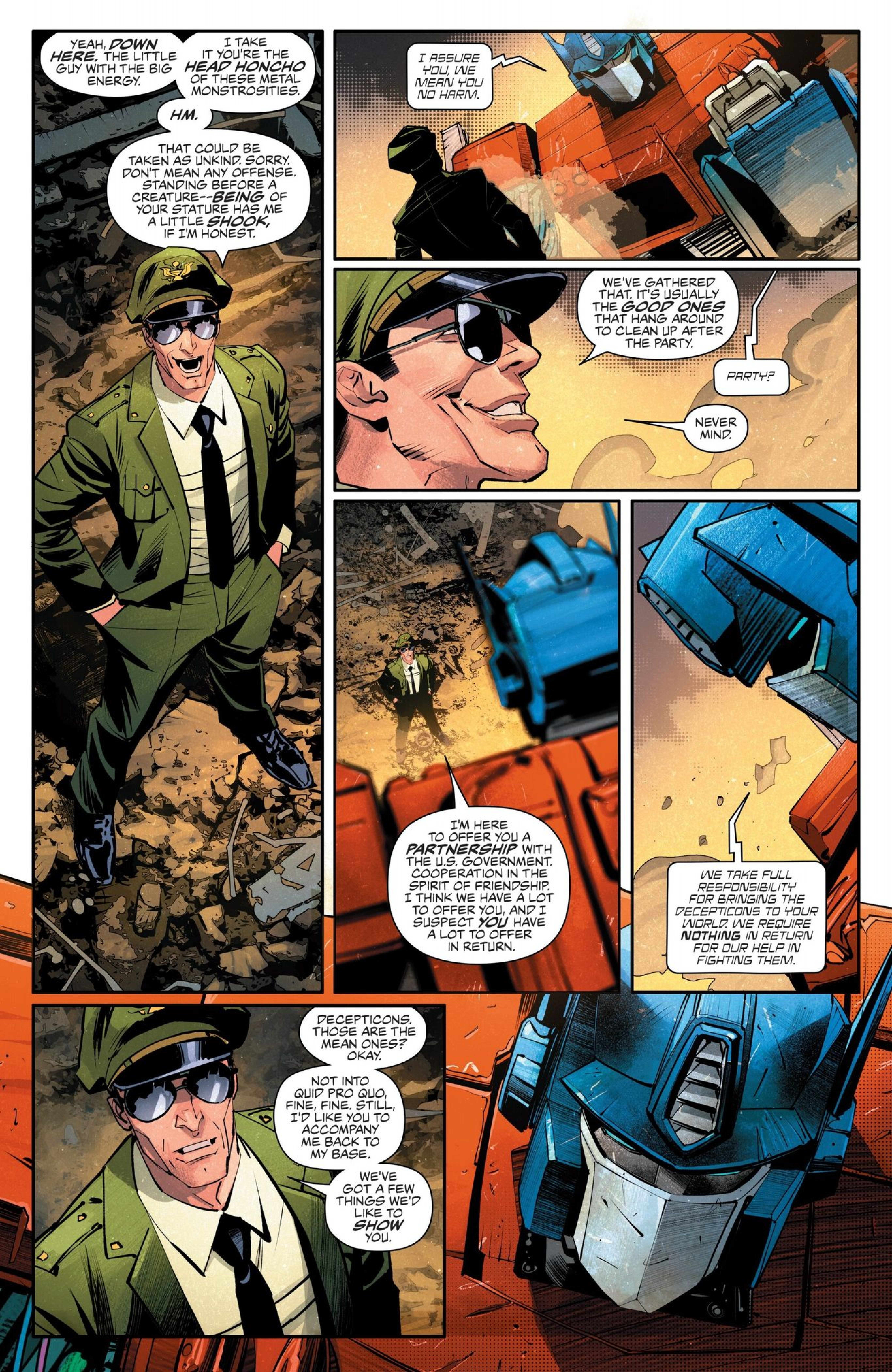

ULTRA MAGNUS? ARE YOU OKAY?
I **FAILED.** SO MUCH DEATH, SO MUCH DESTRUCTION. WE COULDN'T STOP IT. I AM MAGNUS, I SHOULD BE OUR FIRST LINE OF DEFENSE.
THE RULES ARE DIFFERENT HERE, MAN.
WE DID ALL WE CAN, AND WE STILL ARE. THAT'S ALL WE CAN CONTROL.
JAZZ IS RIGHT.
WE LIVE TO FIGHT AGAIN.
I SUPPOSE.
LET'S GET BACK TO WORK. THERE'S STILL GOOD TO BE DONE.
HERE!
I CAN HEAR **BEEPING!** SOMEONE IS SIGNALING.
HELP ME LIFT, BEACHCOMBER!
I'M DOING ALL I CAN!
ARCEE?
COMING!

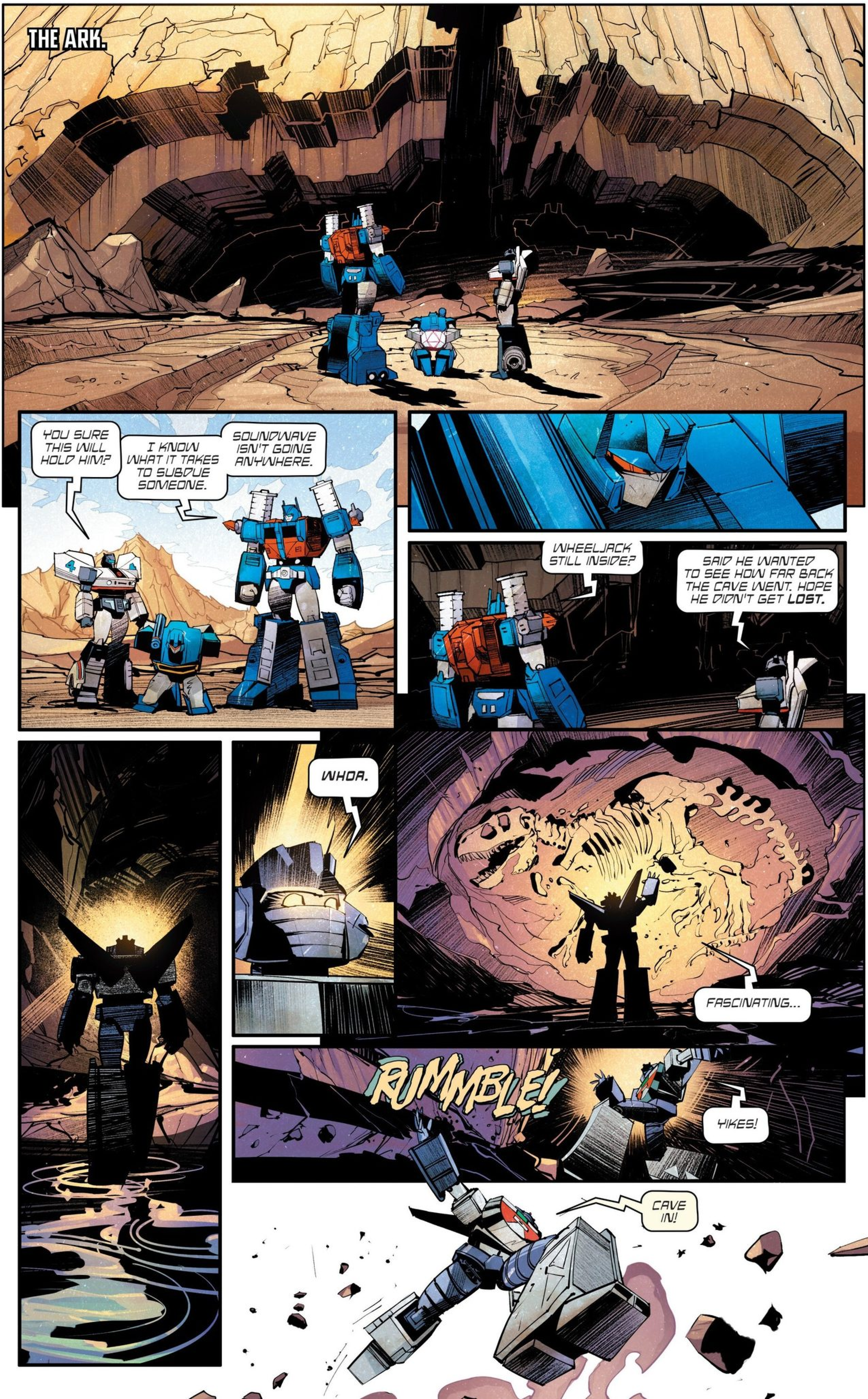

KRAKOOM
PROTECT THE HUMANS! GIVE THEM TIME TO EVACUATE THE AREA!
SOUNDWAVE IS **MINE!**
MOVE! MOVE! MOVE!
AMBULANCE
060
EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES
KHA KO
KHEE
KHA
GET ON! I CAN LOAD YOU OUT!
RETALIATION: ILLOGICAL. DEFEAT: INEVITABLE. TELL ME. WHERE IS MEGATRON?!
HE FLED LIKE THE **COWARD** HE IS!
RESPONSE: UNTRUE. CONVERSATION: POINTLESS.
ON THAT WE CAN AGREE.

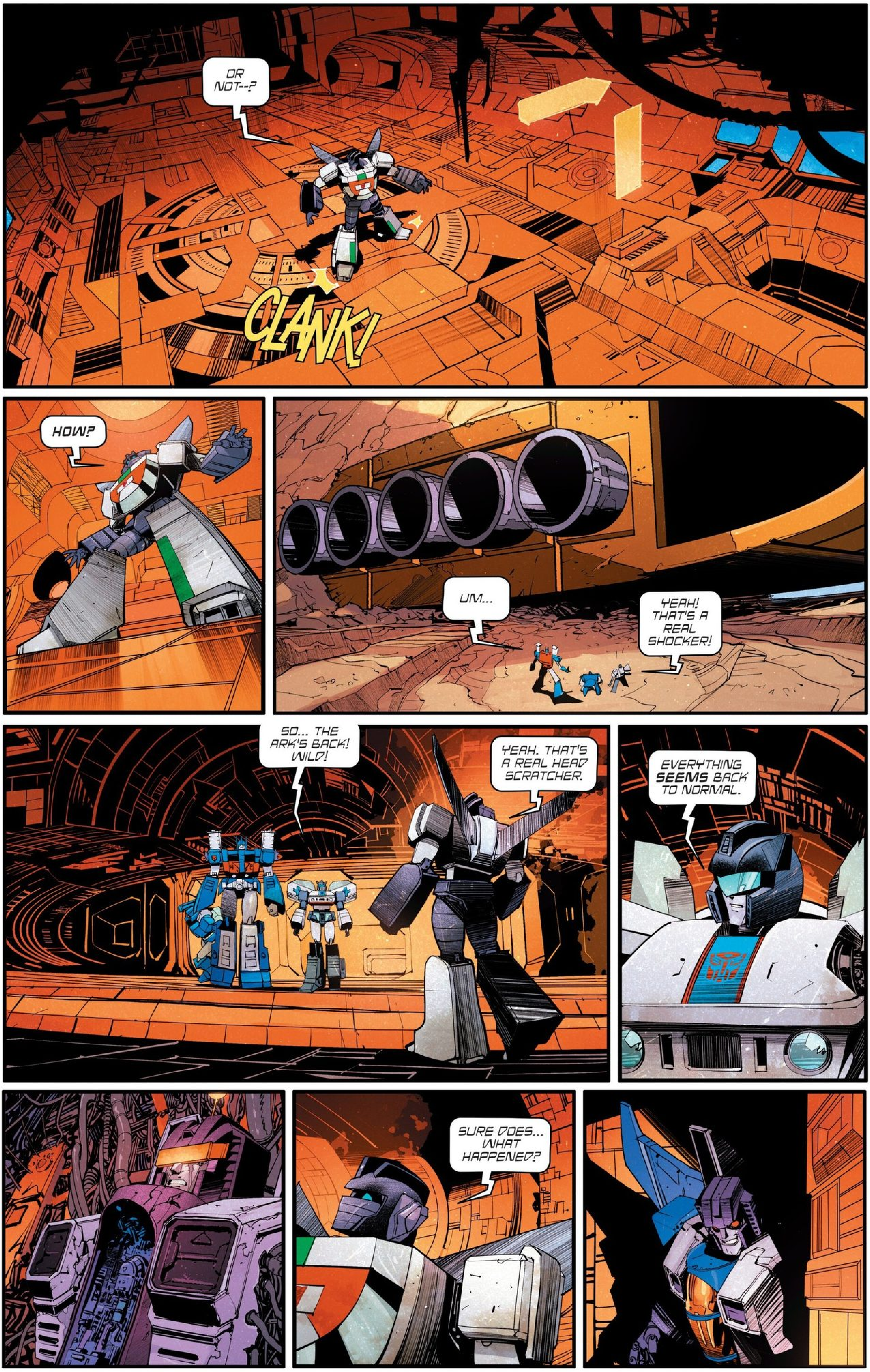

WRAMM
KA-KLANKK
WRAKK

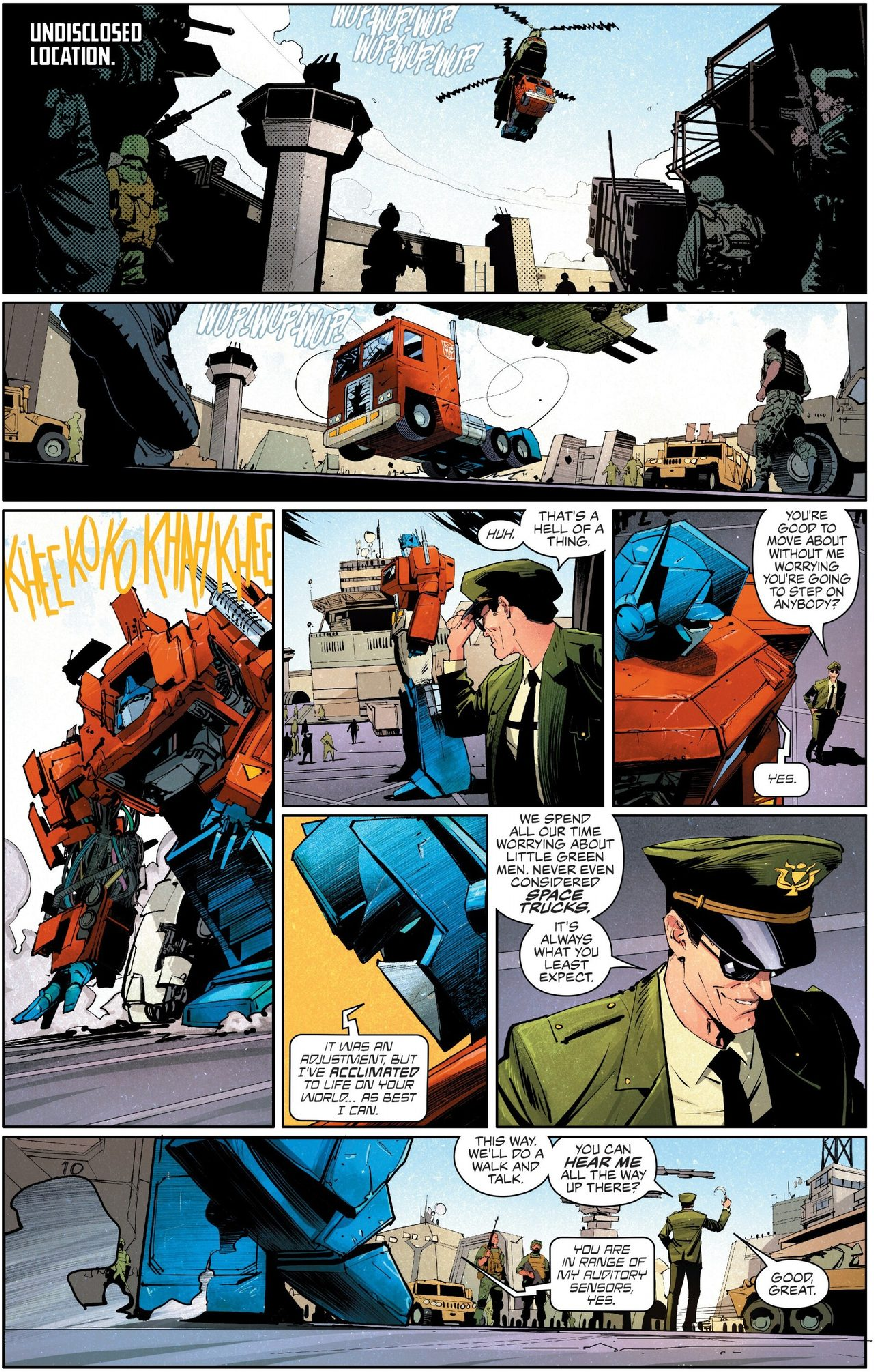


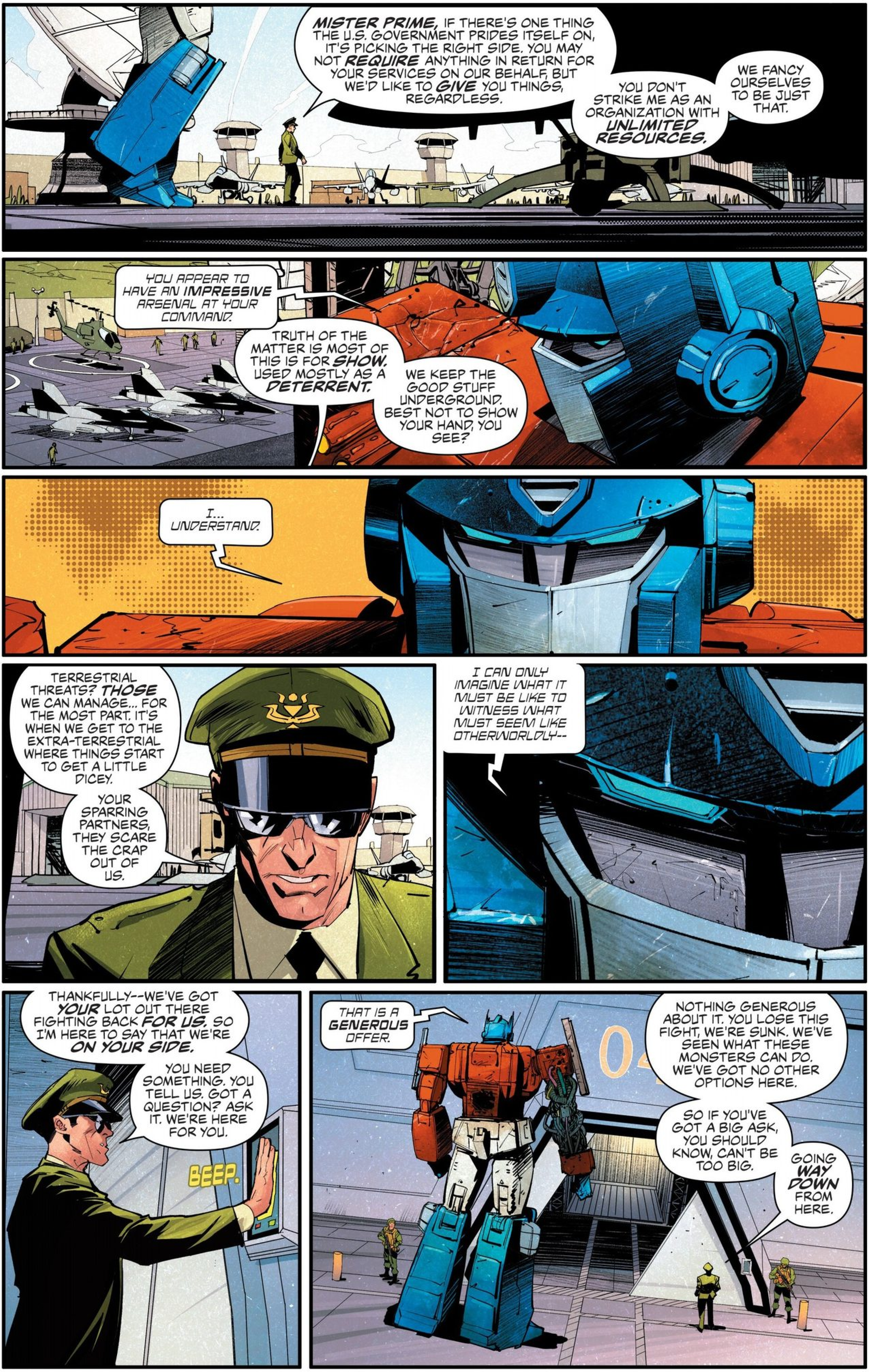

DO YOURSELF A FAVOR AND STAY DOWN.
RESTRAIN HIM.
HE'S OUR RESPONSIBILITY. WE'LL TAKE HIM BACK TO OUR BASE.
YOU MEAN THE EMPTY CAVE WHERE OUR ARK SHIP WAS?
I'VE GOT IT, PRIME. JUST GIVE ME A MOMENT.
YOUR DEFEAT: INEVITABLE. MY IMPRISONMENT ACCOMPLISHES NOTHING.
WE SHALL SEE.
I'LL ACCOMPANY WHEELJACK. WE'LL SECURE SOUNDWAVE. HE WON'T GET AWAY.
THANK YOU, OLD FRIEND.
BIG RED ROBOT! HEY!
YOUR ATTENTION, PLEASE.

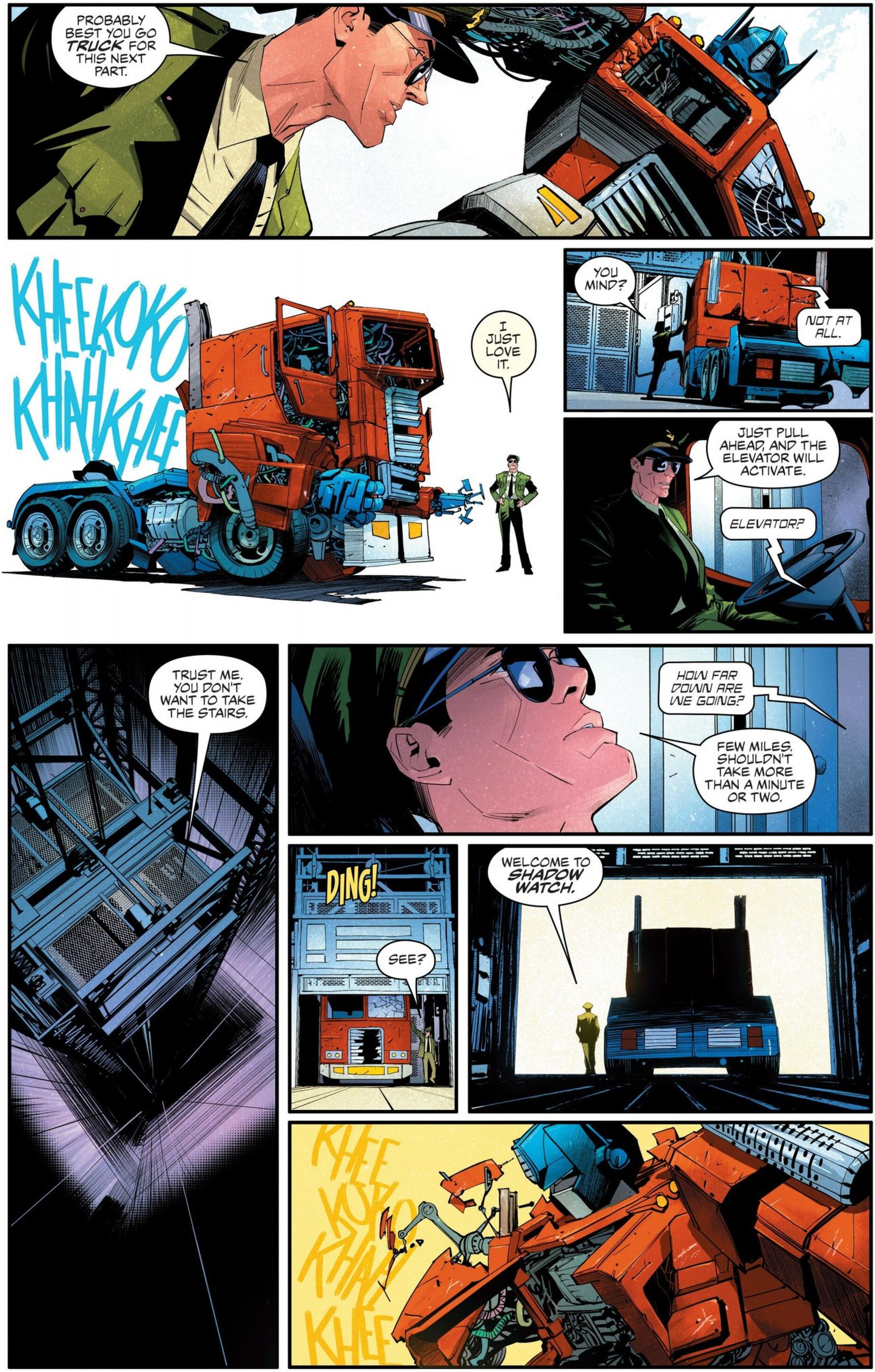

YEAH, DOWN HERE. THE LITTLE GUY WITH THE BIG ENERGY.
I TAKE IT YOU'RE THE HEAD HONCHO OF THESE METAL MONSTROSITIES.
HM.
THAT COULD BE TAKEN AS UNKIND. SORRY. DON'T MEAN ANY OFFENSE. STANDING BEFORE A CREATURE--BEING OF YOUR STATURE HAS ME A LITTLE SHOOK, IF I'M HONEST.
I ASSURE YOU, WE MEAN YOU NO HARM.
WE'VE GATHERED THAT. IT'S USUALLY THE GOOD ONES THAT HANG AROUND TO CLEAN UP AFTER THE PARTY.
PARTY?
NEVER MIND.
I'M HERE TO OFFER YOU A PARTNERSHIP WITH THE U.S. GOVERNMENT. COOPERATION IN THE SPIRIT OF FRIENDSHIP. I THINK WE HAVE A LOT TO OFFER YOU, AND I SUSPECT YOU HAVE A LOT TO OFFER IN RETURN.
WE TAKE FULL RESPONSIBILITY FOR BRINGING THE DECEPTICONS TO YOUR WORLD. WE REQUIRE NOTHING IN RETURN FOR OUR HELP IN FIGHTING THEM.
DECEPTICONS. THOSE ARE THE MEAN ONES? OKAY.
NOT INTO QUID PRO QUO, FINE, FINE. STILL, I'D LIKE YOU TO ACCOMPANY ME BACK TO MY BASE.
WE'VE GOT A FEW THINGS WE'D LIKE TO SHOW YOU.

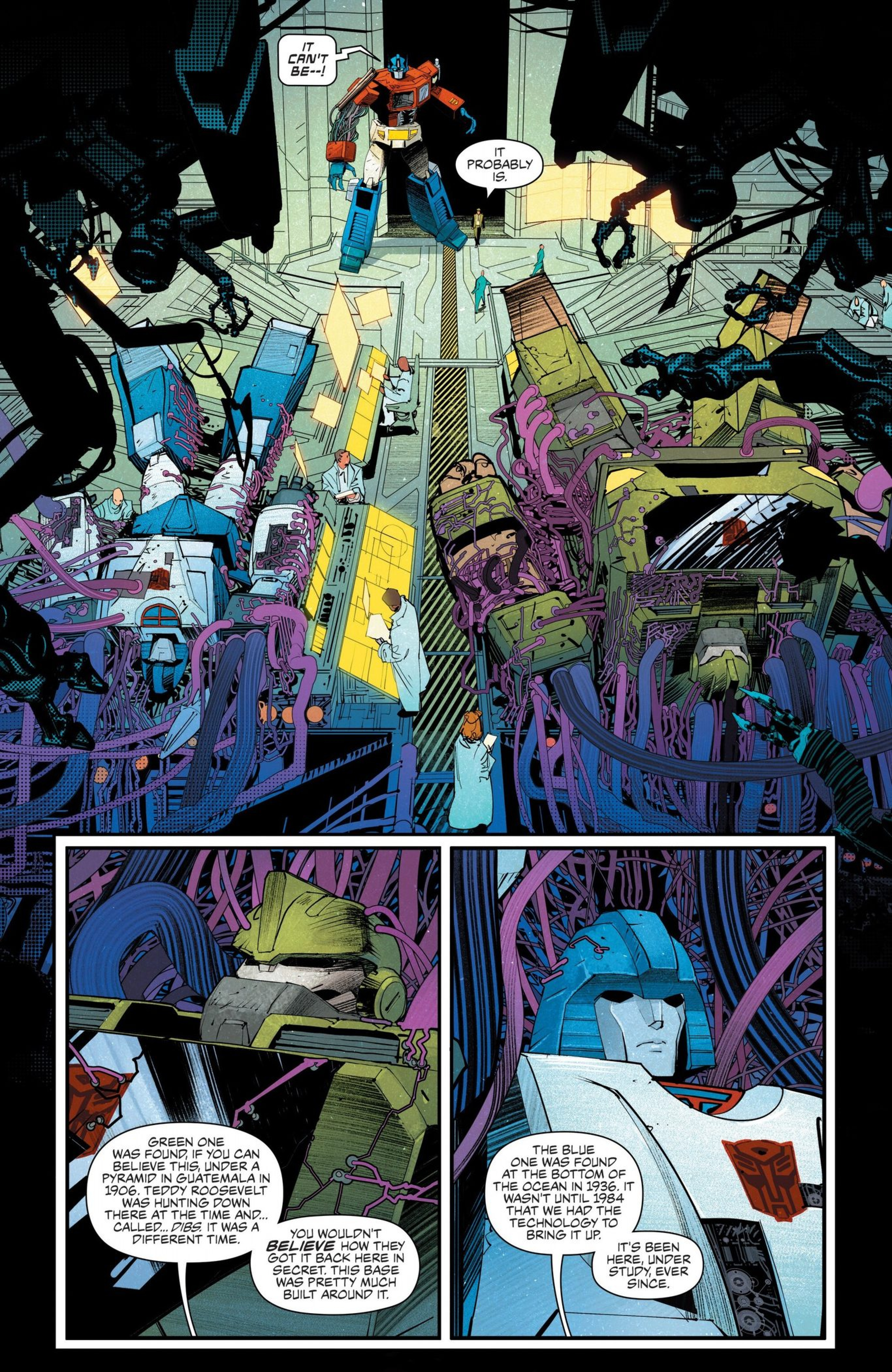

THE ARK.
YOU SURE THIS WILL HOLD HIM?
I KNOW WHAT IT TAKES TO SUBDUE SOMEONE.
SOUNDWAVE ISN'T GOING ANYWHERE.
WHEELJACK STILL INSIDE?
SAID HE WANTED TO SEE HOW FAR BACK THE CAVE WENT. HOPE HE DIDN'T GET LOST.
WHOA.
FASCINATING...
RUMMBLE!
YIKES!
CAVE IN!

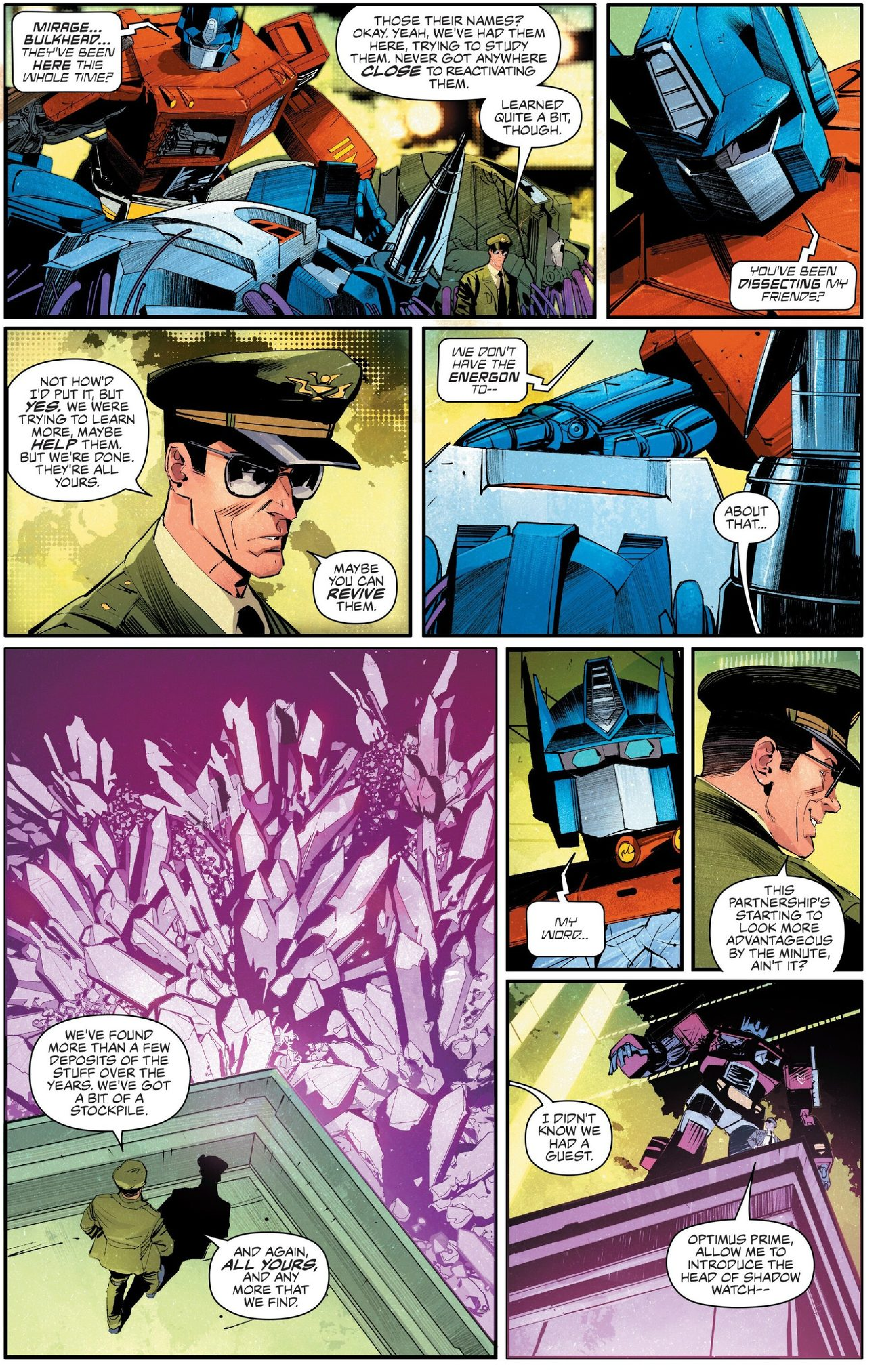

OR NOT--?
CLANK!
HOW?
UM...
YEAH! THAT'S A REAL SHOCKER!
SO... THE ARK'S BACK! WILD!
YEAH. THAT'S A REAL HEAD SCRATCHER.
EVERYTHING **SEEMS** BACK TO NORMAL.
SURE DOES... WHAT HAPPENED?

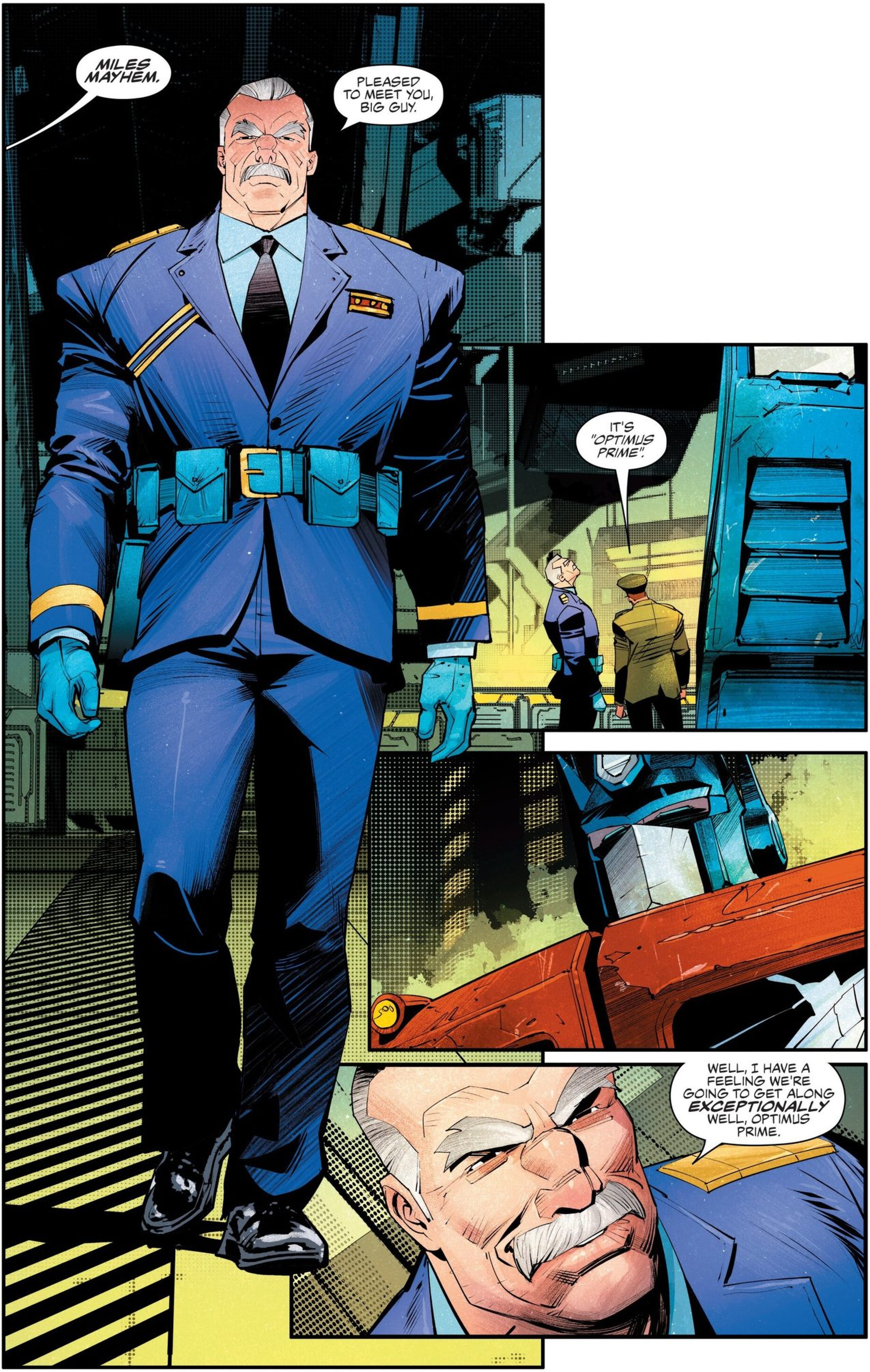

UNDISCLOSED LOCATION.
WUP-WUP-WUP! WUP-WUP-WUP!
WUP-WUP-WUP!
KHEE KO KO KHAH KHEE
HUH.
THAT'S A HELL OF A THING.
YOU'RE GOOD TO MOVE ABOUT WITHOUT ME WORRYING YOU'RE GOING TO STEP ON ANYBODY?
YES.
IT WAS AN ADJUSTMENT, BUT I'VE ACCLIMATED TO LIFE ON YOUR WORLD... AS BEST I CAN.
WE SPEND ALL OUR TIME WORRYING ABOUT LITTLE GREEN MEN. NEVER EVEN CONSIDERED SPACE TRUCKS.
IT'S ALWAYS WHAT YOU LEAST EXPECT.
THIS WAY. WE'LL DO A WALK AND TALK.
YOU CAN HEAR ME ALL THE WAY UP THERE?
YOU ARE IN RANGE OF MY AUDITORY SENSORS, YES.
GOOD, GREAT.

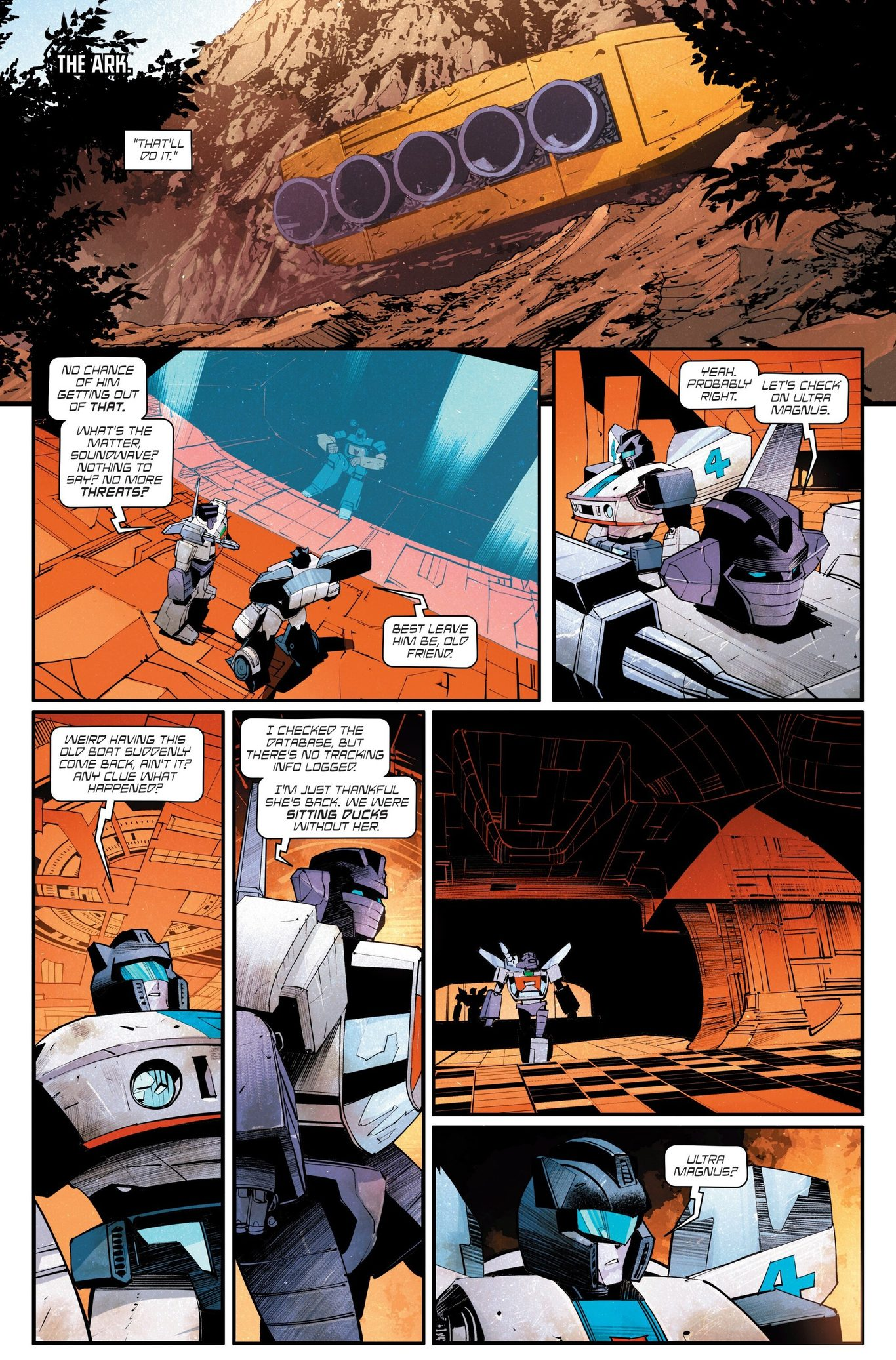

MISTER PRIME, IF THERE'S ONE THING THE U.S. GOVERNMENT PRIDES ITSELF ON, IT'S PICKING THE RIGHT SIDE. YOU MAY NOT REQUIRE ANYTHING IN RETURN FOR YOUR SERVICES ON OUR BEHALF, BUT WE'D LIKE TO GIVE YOU THINGS, REGARDLESS.
YOU DON'T STRIKE ME AS AN ORGANIZATION WITH UNLIMITED RESOURCES.
WE FANCY OURSELVES TO BE JUST THAT.
YOU APPEAR TO HAVE AN IMPRESSIVE ARSENAL AT YOUR COMMAND.
TRUTH OF THE MATTER IS MOST OF THIS IS FOR SHOW. USED MOSTLY AS A DETERRENT.
WE KEEP THE GOOD STUFF UNDERGROUND. BEST NOT TO SHOW YOUR HAND, YOU SEE?
I... UNDERSTAND.
TERRESTRIAL THREATS? THOSE WE CAN MANAGE... FOR THE MOST PART. IT'S WHEN WE GET TO THE EXTRA-TERRESTRIAL WHERE THINGS START TO GET A LITTLE DICEY.
YOUR SPARRING PARTNERS, THEY SCARE THE CRAP OUT OF US.
I CAN ONLY IMAGINE WHAT IT MUST BE LIKE TO WITNESS WHAT MUST SEEM LIKE OTHERWORLDLY--
THANKFULLY--WE'VE GOT YOUR LOT OUT THERE FIGHTING BACK FOR US, SO I'M HERE TO SAY THAT WE'RE ON YOUR SIDE.
YOU NEED SOMETHING. YOU TELL US. GOT A QUESTION? ASK IT. WE'RE HERE FOR YOU.
BEEP.
THAT IS A GENEROUS OFFER.
NOTHING GENEROUS ABOUT IT. YOU LOSE THIS FIGHT, WE'RE SUNK. WE'VE SEEN WHAT THESE MONSTERS CAN DO. WE'VE GOT NO OTHER OPTIONS HERE.
SO IF YOU'VE GOT A BIG ASK, YOU SHOULD KNOW, CAN'T BE TOO BIG.
GOING WAY DOWN FROM HERE.

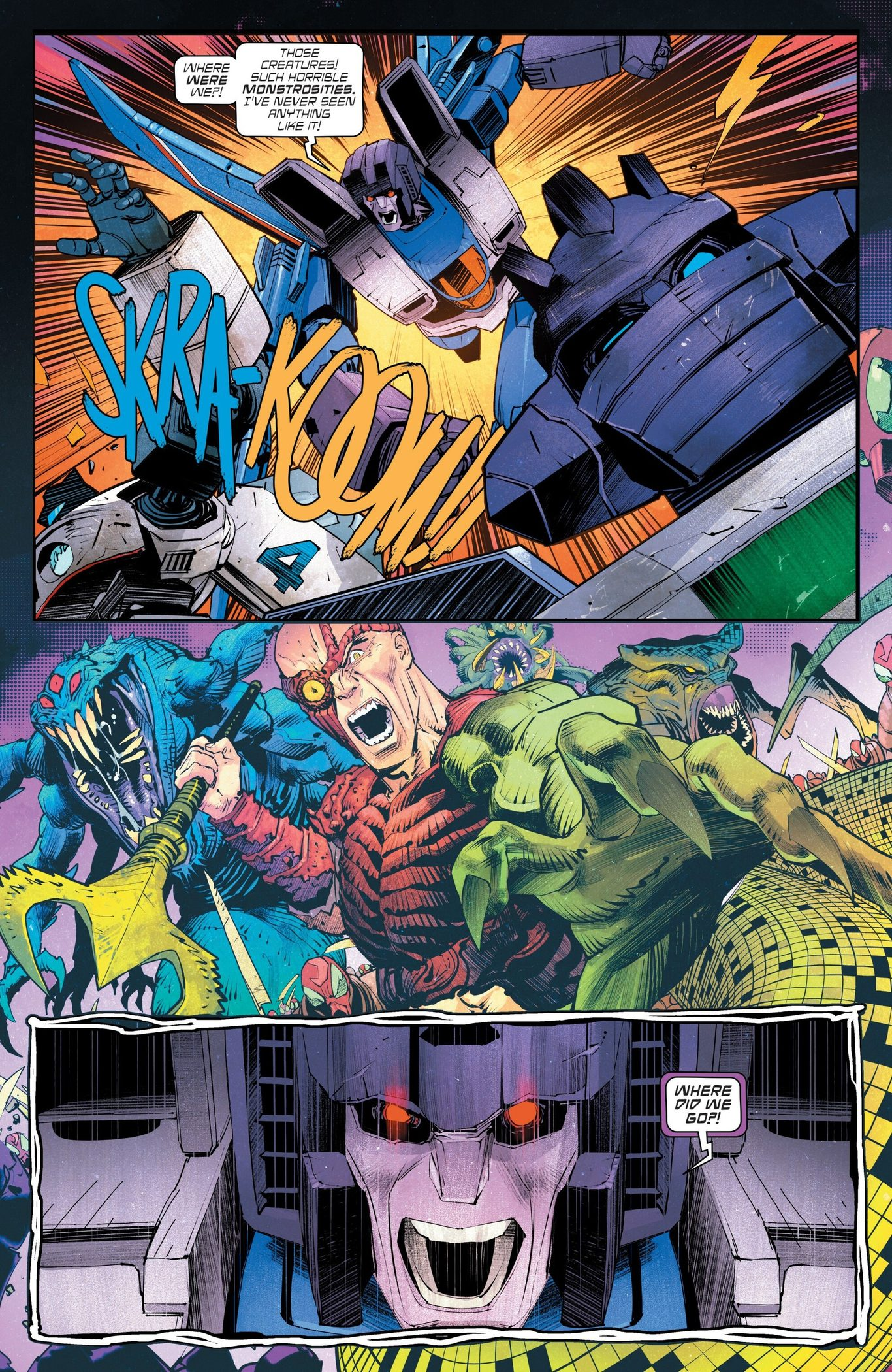

PROBABLY BEST YOU GO *TRUCK* FOR THIS NEXT PART.
KHEEKOKO KHAHKHEE
I JUST LOVE IT.
YOU MIND?
NOT AT ALL.
JUST PULL AHEAD, AND THE ELEVATOR WILL ACTIVATE.
ELEVATOR?
TRUST ME. YOU DON'T WANT TO TAKE THE STAIRS.
HOW FAR DOWN ARE WE GOING?
FEW MILES. SHOULDN'T TAKE MORE THAN A MINUTE OR TWO.
DING!
SEE?
WELCOME TO ***SHADOW WATCH.***
KHEEKOKOKHAHKHEE

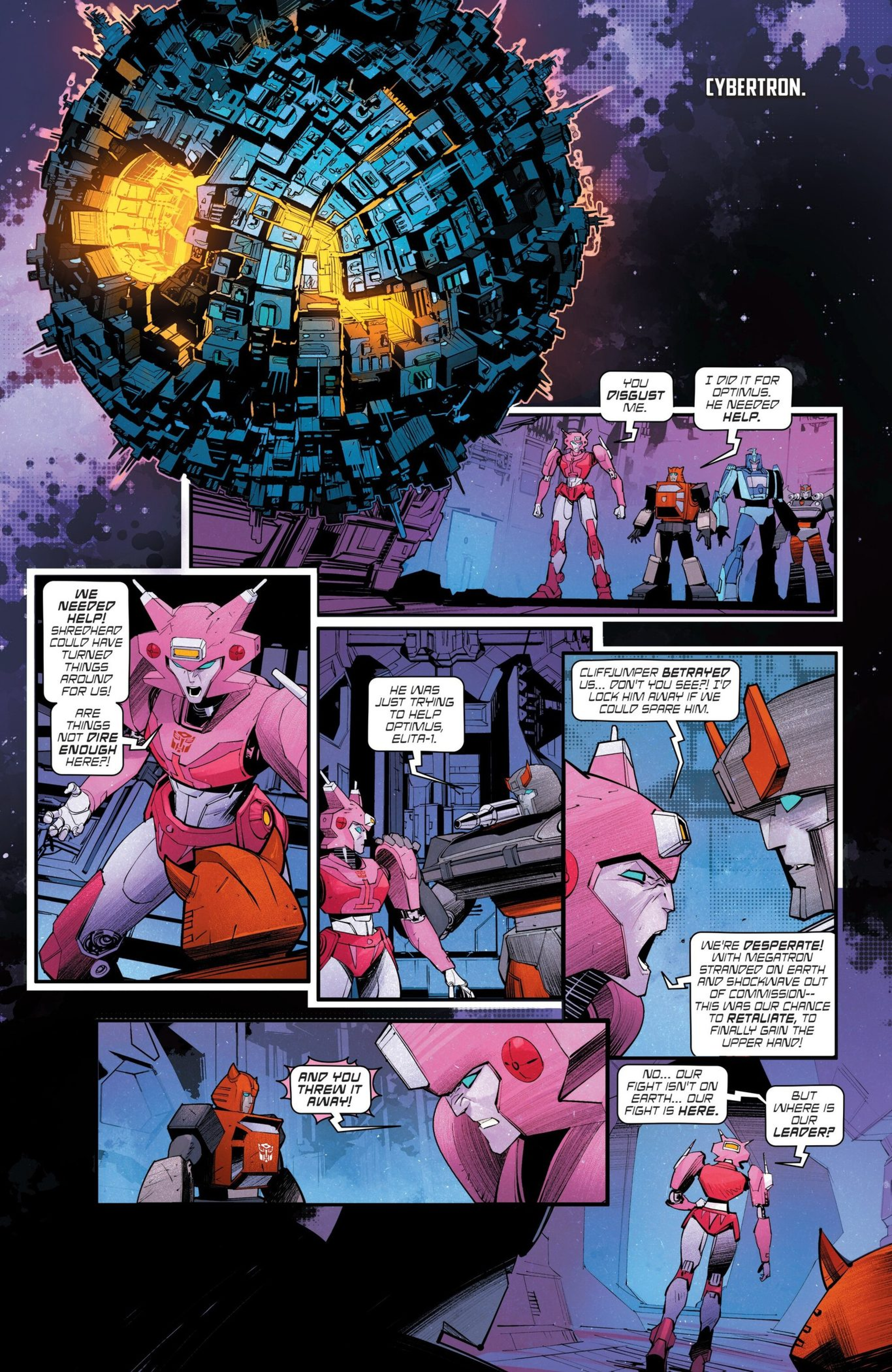

IT CAN'T BE--!
IT PROBABLY IS.
GREEN ONE WAS FOUND, IF YOU CAN BELIEVE THIS, UNDER A PYRAMID IN GUATEMALA IN 1906. TEDDY ROOSEVELT WAS HUNTING DOWN THERE AT THE TIME AND... CALLED... *DIBS*. IT WAS A DIFFERENT TIME.
YOU WOULDN'T ***BELIEVE*** HOW THEY GOT IT BACK HERE IN SECRET. THIS BASE WAS PRETTY MUCH BUILT AROUND IT.
THE BLUE ONE WAS FOUND AT THE BOTTOM OF THE OCEAN IN 1936. IT WASN'T UNTIL 1984 THAT WE HAD THE TECHNOLOGY TO BRING IT UP.
IT'S BEEN HERE, UNDER STUDY, EVER SINCE.

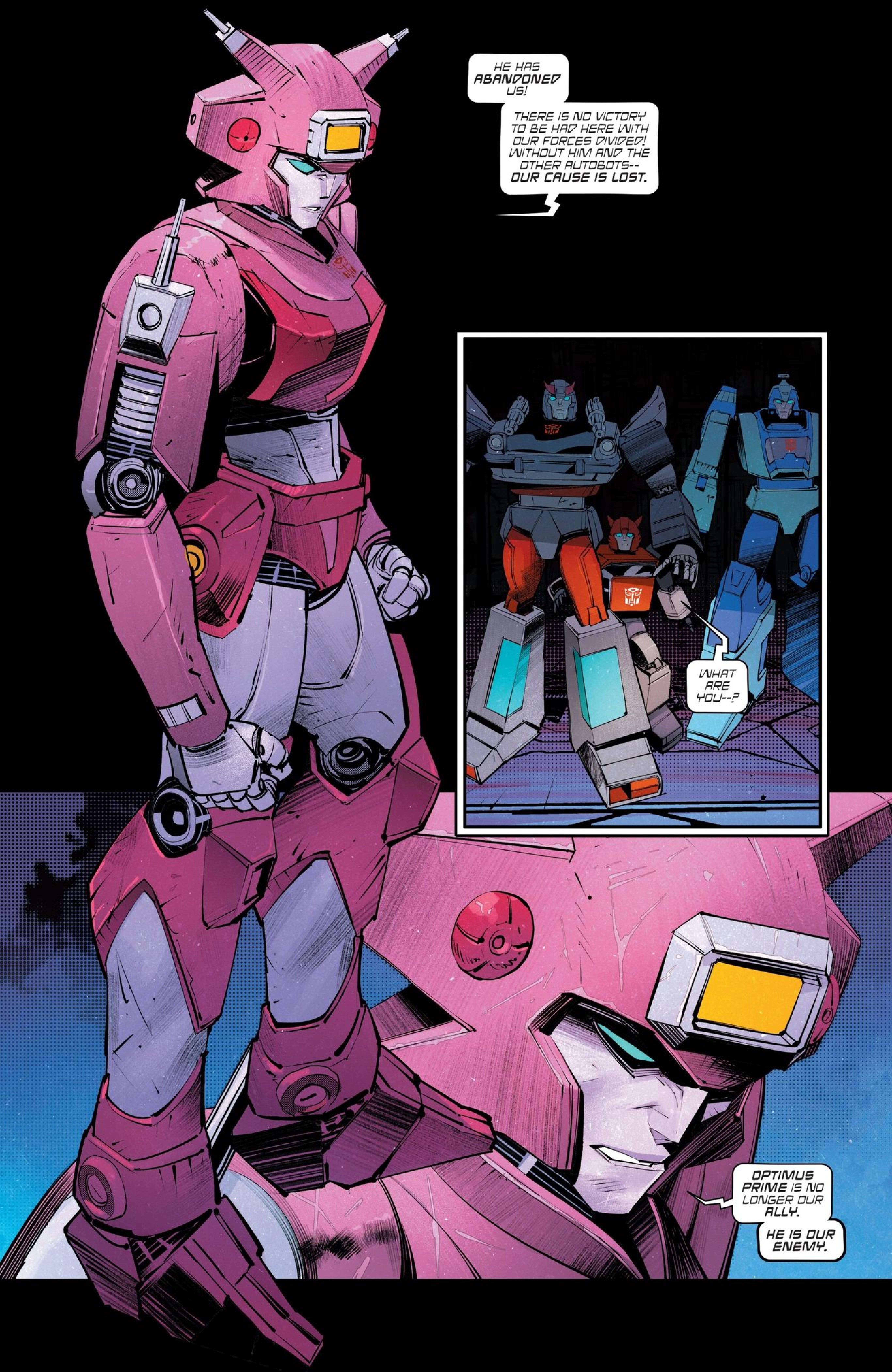

MIRAGE... BULKHEAD... THEY'VE BEEN HERE THIS WHOLE TIME?
THOSE THEIR NAMES? OKAY. YEAH, WE'VE HAD THEM HERE, TRYING TO STUDY THEM. NEVER GOT ANYWHERE CLOSE TO REACTIVATING THEM.
LEARNED QUITE A BIT, THOUGH.
YOU'VE BEEN DISSECTING MY FRIENDS?
NOT HOW'D I'D PUT IT, BUT YES. WE WERE TRYING TO LEARN MORE, MAYBE HELP THEM. BUT WE'RE DONE. THEY'RE ALL YOURS.
MAYBE YOU CAN REVIVE THEM.
WE DON'T HAVE THE ENERGON TO--
ABOUT THAT...
WE'VE FOUND MORE THAN A FEW DEPOSITS OF THE STUFF OVER THE YEARS. WE'VE GOT A BIT OF A STOCKPILE.
AND AGAIN, ALL YOURS, AND ANY MORE THAT WE FIND.
MY WORD...
THIS PARTNERSHIP'S STARTING TO LOOK MORE ADVANTAGEOUS BY THE MINUTE, AIN'T IT?
I DIDN'T KNOW WE HAD A GUEST.
OPTIMUS PRIME, ALLOW ME TO INTRODUCE THE HEAD OF SHADOW WATCH--


MILES MAYHEM.
PLEASED TO MEET YOU, BIG GUY.
IT'S "OPTIMUS PRIME".
WELL, I HAVE A FEELING WE'RE GOING TO GET ALONG ***EXCEPTIONALLY*** WELL, OPTIMUS PRIME.


THE ARK.
"THAT'LL DO IT."
NO CHANCE OF HIM GETTING OUT OF **THAT.**
WHAT'S THE MATTER, SOUNDWAVE? NOTHING TO SAY? NO MORE **THREATS?**
BEST LEAVE HIM BE, OLD FRIEND.
YEAH. PROBABLY RIGHT.
LET'S CHECK ON ULTRA MAGNUS.
WEIRD HAVING THIS OLD BOAT SUDDENLY COME BACK, AIN'T IT? ANY CLUE WHAT HAPPENED?
I CHECKED THE DATABASE, BUT THERE'S NO TRACKING INFO LOGGED.
I'M JUST THANKFUL SHE'S BACK. WE WERE **SITTING DUCKS** WITHOUT HER.
ULTRA MAGNUS?


WHERE **WERE** WE?!
THOSE CREATURES! SUCH HORRIBLE **MONSTROSITIES.** I'VE NEVER SEEN ANYTHING LIKE IT!
SKRA-KOOM!!
4
WHERE DID WE GO?!


CYBERTRON.
YOU **DISGUST** ME.
I DID IT FOR OPTIMUS. HE NEEDED **HELP.**
WE NEEDED HELP! SHREDHEAD COULD HAVE TURNED THINGS AROUND FOR US!
ARE THINGS NOT **DIRE ENOUGH** HERE?!
HE WAS JUST TRYING TO HELP OPTIMUS, ELITA-1.
CLIFFJUMPER **BETRAYED** US... DON'T YOU SEE?! I'D LOCK HIM AWAY IF WE COULD SPARE HIM.
WE'RE **DESPERATE!** WITH MEGATRON STRANDED ON EARTH AND SHOCKWAVE OUT OF COMMISSION-- THIS WAS OUR CHANCE TO **RETALIATE,** TO FINALLY GAIN THE UPPER HAND!
AND YOU THREW IT AWAY!
NO... OUR FIGHT ISN'T ON EARTH... OUR FIGHT IS **HERE.**
BUT WHERE IS OUR **LEADER?**


HE HAS **ABANDONED** US!
THERE IS NO VICTORY TO BE HAD HERE WITH OUR FORCES DIVIDED! WITHOUT HIM AND THE OTHER AUTOBOTS-- **OUR CAUSE IS LOST.**
WHAT ARE YOU--?
OPTIMUS PRIME IS NO LONGER OUR **ALLY.**
HE IS OUR ENEMY.

SEND LETTERS TO TRANSFORMERS@SKYBOUND.COM

Holy moly! I can't believe I'm writing a TRANSFORMERS comic book series! I really can't believe this is actually happening. I've talked about this publicly a lot so I apologize if this is old news, but I figured it would be nice to have all this in one place. I'm a die hard Transformers fan. I can't really remember a time before Transformers existed. I was born in late 1978 so I was 5 years old when Transformers debuted. I remember bringing my Bumblebee toy (still a favorite of mine, R.I.P.) to Kindergarten and another kid ripping a leg off and having to figure out how to snap it back in and how sad I was at how loose the legs were after that. My Bumblebee was also the yellow Cliffjumper mold. I always longed to have one that was an actual VW bug.

I was 8 years old when Transformers: The Movie came out. I saw it in the theater and when I tell you I was devastated by Optimus Prime's death, I mean it. My dad still comments on seeing me with tears streaming down my face. It was the gut punch of all gut punches and I loved every minute of it. That abrupt sense of loss and that feeling of...safe terror, where I didn't know at any point in that movie what could happen and if anyone was safe, changed my life. It's what I search for in every piece of entertainment I consume and it's what I've always strived to achieved with my work.

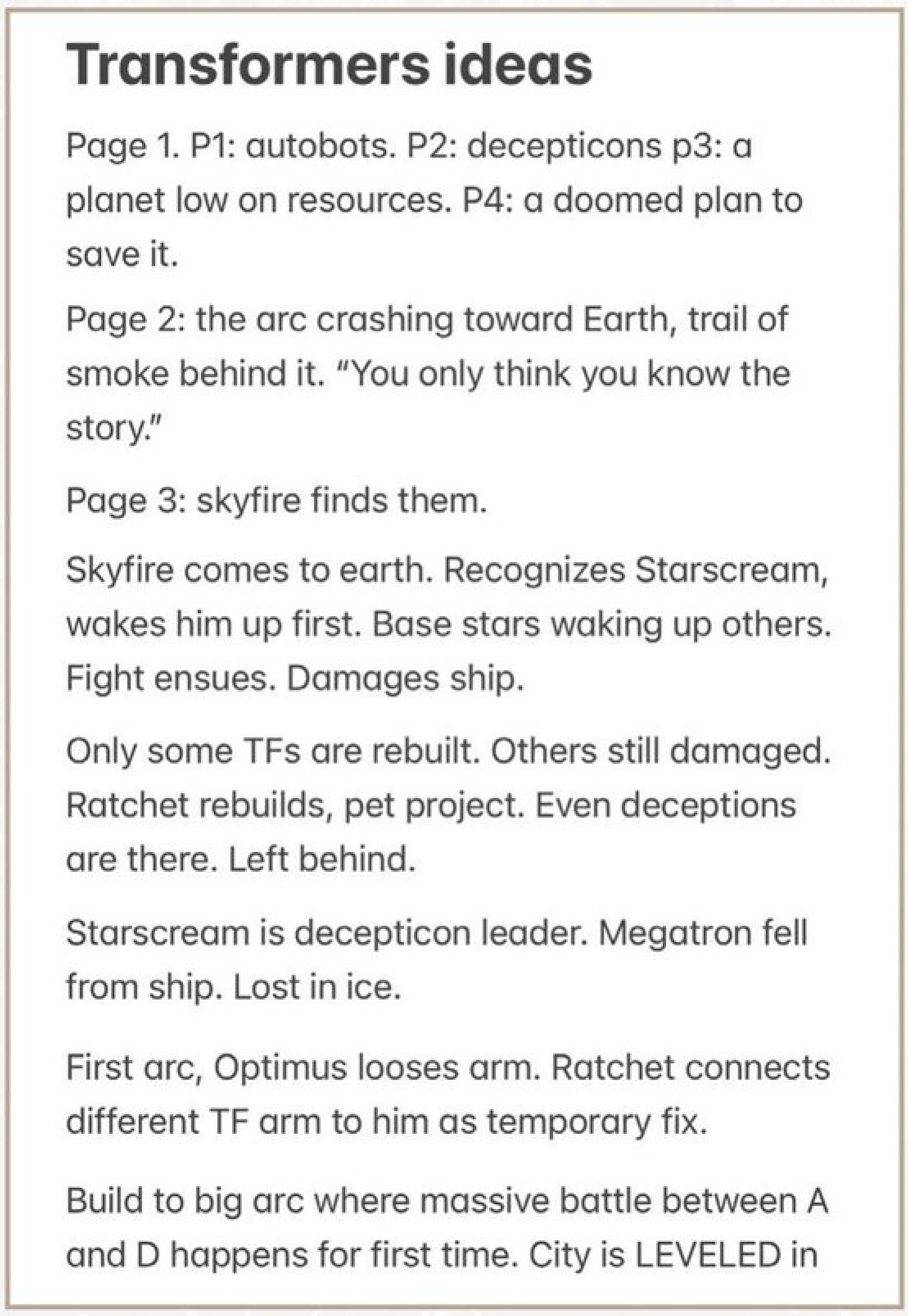
All that death in The Walking Dead? Or Invincible? And the way I write to try and keep people guessing, trying to keep as many surprises as possible always a page turn away...well, it all comes from that feeling I got in that movie theater in Kentucky all those years ago.

My love for Transformers didn't end in '86, if anything, it only grew from there. I've bought the toys from almost every single era at some point or another. I've watched most of the cartoons, including the full run of Transformers: Animated when my son was young. It was a real delight to buy those toys for... him and play with them as if I was a kid again. I'm a huge fan of that series, hence the sudden appearance of Bulkhead this issue.

When Dreamwave got the rights to do Transformers comics in the mid 2000s, my buddy Val Staples was the competing bidder at the time (he did end up with the Masters of the Universe rights sometime later). Had he won out, I was poised to be writing the Transformers comic way back then and it was a real bummer when it didn't happen. I even wrote a test script, which thinking back, probably wasn't all that great.

When Skybound got the rights nearly four years ago, I knew I was going to be creating VOID RIVALS with Lorenzo De Felici to be a part of what would become The Energon Universe. I'm devoted to creating new things and promoting new ideas. That's my passion. I thought doing a TRANSFORMERS adjacent series would be very exciting and would definitely scratch that Transformers itch I've always had. I'd much prefer reading a great TRANSFORMERS series as a fan to writing one. It's less work! But as we built out the Energon Universe in its earliest form, my mind kept racing with other ideas for the Transformers, nothing too solid of concrete just "I'd be cool to introduce XXXX this way" or "it'd be nice to adapt this part of the show in some form" or "Megatron should not be in the book for a good long time to make things different." I'd done so much planning I even considered co-writing the book, but that was not to be. Although, some of my ideas did creep into the early issues of this series.

Here's how my original notes from my phone started:



Transformers ideas

Page 1. P1: autobots. P2: decepticons p3: a planet low on resources. P4: a doomed plan to save it.

Page 2: the arc crashing toward Earth, trail of smoke behind it. "You only think you know the story."

Page 3: skyfire finds them.

Skyfire comes to earth. Recognizes Starscream, wakes him up first. Base stars waking up others. Fight ensues. Damages ship.

Only some TFs are rebuilt. Others still damaged. Ratchet rebuilds, pet project. Even deceptions are there. Left behind.

Starscream is decepticon leader. Megatron fell from ship. Lost in ice.

First arc, Optimus looses arm. Ratchet connects different TF arm to him as temporary fix.

Build to big arc where massive battle between A and D happens for first time. City is LEVELED in

To show anything more could spoil future stories!

Now, Daniel Warren Johnson ended up writing some of my favorite Transformers stories ever. I looked forward to his new issues, with Jorge Corona, Jason Howard and Ludo Lulibi, each and every month. I spent a solid year trying to talk him into staying on this series, as did Ben and Sean. I just really didn't want that magical run to end. But Daniel had a story to tell and he knew from the beginning he'd be doing 24 issues and I respect someone having that kind of commitment to making plans and sticking to them. I'm more of a barnacle you have to scrape off a book against its will. I'll never admit how many issues of VOID RIVALS I originally planned to write!

I've loved Transformers my whole life but I'm...soul crushingly busy. I'm the full-time co-showrunner of the Invincible television series (available on Amazon Prime Video right now! Season 4 coming soon!) as well as the writer of VOID RIVALS, INVINCIBLE UNIVERSE: BATTLE BEAST and the newly launched SKINBREAKER with David Finch. I'm quite busy...but...this has been a dream of mine for a very long time.

Still...I was on the fence. Until Ben Abernathy said one name:

DAN MORA.

I've been a fan of Dan Mora's since his career began. His slick kinetic style has always caught my eye no matter what he's drawing. He's become DC's go-to artist, drawing so many covers each much and even multiple monthly books for them. It's an astounding body of work that grows exponentially each year. I've been dying to work with Dan for years. I've asked many times but our schedules just could never line up. Until now! Being able to kick off my run on this series with Dan Mora handling art duties? It was just too much to pass up!

So now I'm committed. Working with a collaborator I couldn't be more exited about (along with returning champions Mike Spicer and Rus Wooton) and doing everything in my power to honor what Daniel built with this series before me! My goal is that this issue is a seamless transition from the last, as my run will continue a number of storylines that have been set in motion already. In the end, I hope to add to the overall mythos of Transformers in some exciting ways that would make my younger self proud...and maybe, just maybe, along the way there will be some shocking deaths that would bring tears to his eyes.

Maybe!

-Robert Kirkman
Backwoods, CA
2025

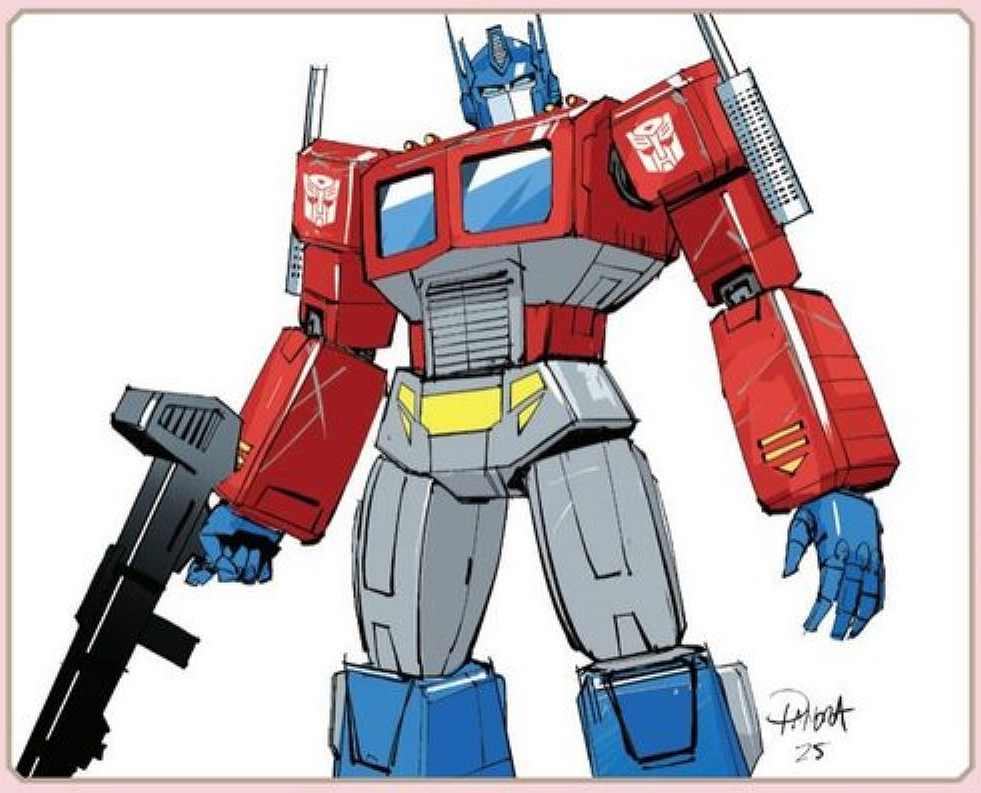
ENERGON EXPERIENCE

All hail the new team!

I'm thrilled to welcome the new the creative team of Robert Kirkman and Dan Mora to TRANSFORMERS--and judging by this first issue, we're in for one wild ride. To say this is a dream come true in an understatement--Robert's passion and love of Transformers is the whole reason the book you're holding exists! And not only is Dan Mora one of the absolute TOP artists in the business he's also an equally massive Transformers fan! This is a match made by Primus!

Ben!

-Ben Abernathy, Executive Editor

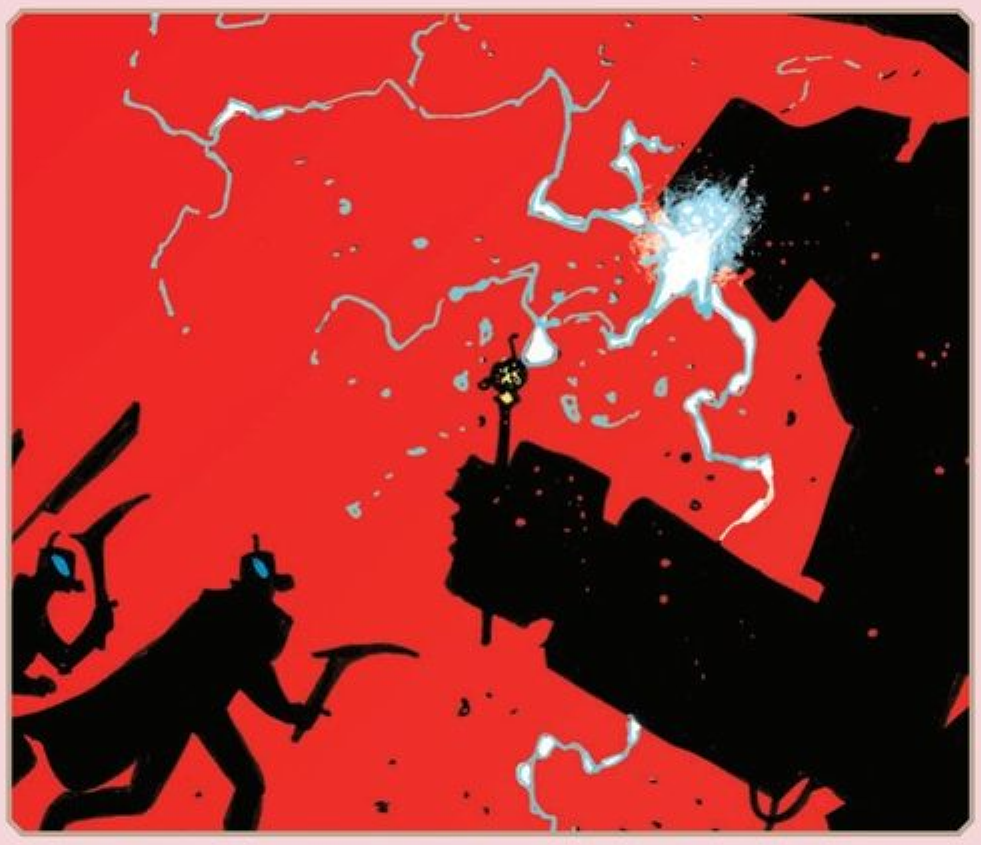


CHARACTER SPOTLIGHT

WHO: Optimus Prime

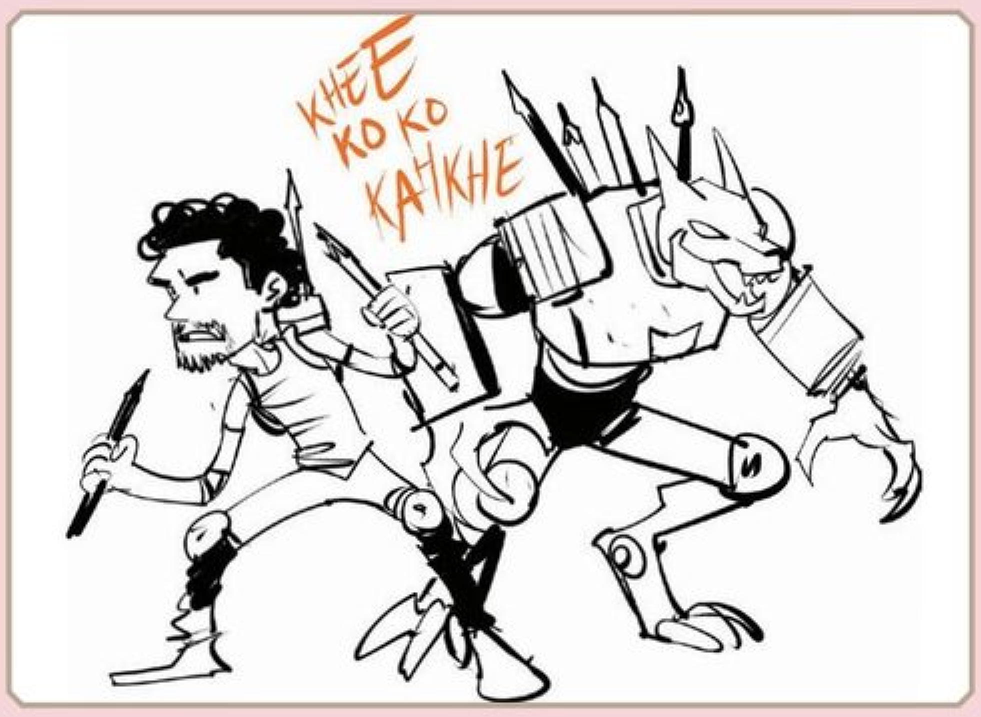
WHERE: Leader of the Autobots

WHAT: Following a brutal but decisive victory over Megatron and his Decepticon forces in Chicago, the tide seems to be shifting for Optimus Prime and his Autobots. Optimus is a wise and battle-tested leader, however, and he knows the Decepticons will strike again soon...could this new arrangement with General Flagg be the turning point the Autobots have been holding out for?



COBRA-LA LA LA LA!

More than a few fans have wondered what happened to Thundercracker, Skywarp and the Autobot Ark after TRANSFORMERS #21...well, it looks like we now have a partial answer based on that shocking panel with Golobulus! They're lucky to have survived considering how much Golobulus hates Decepticons--don't forget how nasty he was to Megatron in 2024's Energon Universe Special!



CREATOR SPOTLIGHT

With the incredible Dan Mora joining TRANSFORMERS I wanted to ask him our classic question...

Q: Dan, if you had an alt mode, what would it be?

A: I would probably be a dinosaur or a werewolf...hmm a werewolf it is!

THE ENERGON UNIVERSE CHECKLIST

☐ TRANSFORMERS #23
AVAILABLE 10/8

☐ G.I. JOE #12
AVAILABLE 10/22

☐ VOID RIVALS #24
AVAILABLE 10/22

COLLECT ALL THESE EXCITING ENERGON UNIVERSE COVERS

COVER A

ROBERT KIRKMAN DAN MORA JORGE CORONA MIKE SPICER
TRANSFORMERS
#25

DAVID NAKAYAMA

COVER B

ROBERT KIRKMAN DAN MORA JORGE CORONA MIKE SPICER
TRANSFORMERS
#25

DANIEL WARREN JOHNSON & MIKE SPICER

COVER C

ROBERT KIRKMAN DAN MORA JORGE CORONA MIKE SPICER
TRANSFORMERS
#25

JORGE CORONA & MIKE SPICER

COVER D

ROBERT KIRKMAN DAN MORA JORGE CORONA MIKE SPICER
TRANSFORMERS
#25

KAEL NGU

COVER E

ROBERT KIRKMAN DAN MORA JORGE CORONA MIKE SPICER
TRANSFORMERS
#25
[NAME] JAZZ
[FUNCTION] AUTOBOT WARRIOR
[EXPERTISE] COMBAT VETERAN AND MUSICIAN

DAN MORA & ANDRES JUAREZ

FOIL COVER F

ROBERT KIRKMAN DAN MORA JORGE CORONA MIKE SPICER
TRANSFORMERS
#25

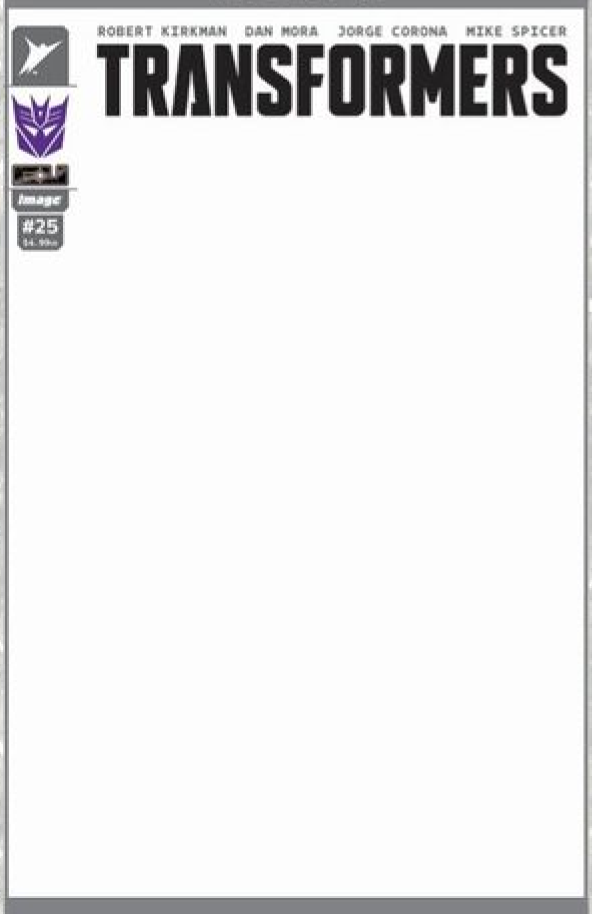
JAE LEE & JUNE CHUNG

COVER G

ROBERT KIRKMAN DAN MORA JORGE CORONA MIKE SPICER
TRANSFORMERS
#25

BLANK SKETCH COVER

COVER H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BLANK SKETCH COVER

FOIL COVER I

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TRANSFORMERS
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DAVID NAKAYAMA

DIE CUT COVER J

KIRKMAN MORA CORONA SPICER
TRANSFORMERS
ISSUE #25

JOHN AMOR & ANDRES JUAREZ

DIE CUT COVER K

ROBERT KIRKMAN DAN MORA JORGE CORONA MIKE SPICER
TRANSFORMERS
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ERIC CANETE

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